

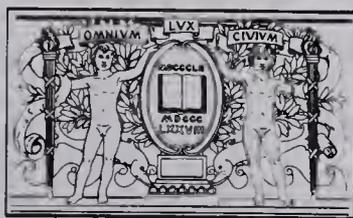


AND

POST-OFFICE ASSISTANT.

ESTABLISHED 1860 - By J. HOLBROOK.
REPRINTED 1975 - By COLLECTORS CLUB OF CHICAGO

VOLUME ONE
OCTOBER 1860 - SEPTEMBER 1866



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This two-volume reprint of the first 12 years of the *United States Mail and Post-Office Assistant* (October 1860–September 1872) is published in a limited edition of 300 numbered sets, of which this is number

42

UNITED STATES MAIL
AND
POST-OFFICE ASSISTANT
1860 – 1872
INTRODUCTION
BY
MICHAEL LAURENCE



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DEDICATION

The entire history of the Committee on Publications and the labor of all of its members have been under the chairmanship and leadership of one man, the late Anthony C. Russo.

All of the books published by the Collectors Club of Chicago, except the first, were under Tony's aegis, and we of the committee became accustomed to letting all of the work, save for the editing of the individual books, fall on his willing and capable shoulders.

When the possibility of the publication of this pair of volumes was first broached, it had no stronger backer than Tony Russo. While some members wanted only the rate charts published, and others were in favor of the reproduction of the entire material available, Tony never wavered in his belief in and support for the publication of the entire 1860-72 run presented here, with provision for the eventual publication of the later years, if sufficient copies suitable for reproduction can be assembled.

Tony lived long enough to initiate the project and set it in motion. We think he would be most pleased with the results. We humbly, but proudly, dedicate these volumes to Anthony C. Russo.

Charles Hahn, Chairman
Committee on Publications
Collectors Club of Chicago



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Vol. 1

This publication was made possible by the financial aid and the help of the Clarence W. Hennan Memorial Fund of the Collectors Club of Chicago, as established by the late Blema and Richard McP. Cabeen. The fund is administered by the Chicago Community Trust, through The Northern Trust Company as trustee, and is devoted to helping finance philatelic publications initiated or sponsored by the Collectors Club of Chicago. The assistance of the Chicago Community Trust in making this publication possible is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

PUBLISHER'S PREFACE

For several reasons, this book is unlike any book that has ever before been published. What we have here are five million words exclusively devoted to U.S. postal affairs between 1860 and 1872. This is much more information than has heretofore been available on this particular subject.

This work is also distinctive in that it reproduces a newspaper in book form. *The United States Mail and Post-Office Assistant* (hereafter called the *U.S. Mail*) was a four-page monthly, firmly, if semi-officially, associated with the U.S. Post Office. It was published privately for the edification of postmasters, businessmen or anyone else who was willing to pay one dollar for a one-year subscription. It appeared from October 1860 (volume 1, number 1) through May 1876 (volume 16, number 8) and may have continued in publication thereafter.

What most sets this work off from the common herd is the fact that no living person has ever read it, at least in its entirety. Thus no one knows precisely what it contains. Of course, we know enough about its content to appreciate its value. The introduction that follows touches briefly on some of the high points. But until the publication of these two volumes, many of the issues reprinted herein were not known to exist at all; sporadic survivors had long since begun to disintegrate; and the recently discovered original material, from which offset plates for this reprint were photographically reproduced, proved so fragile as not to allow thorough scrutiny.

Thus this work represents a research source whose value could not be fully appreciated prior to its publication. We hope and suspect that the volumes presented here will inform a generation of philatelic scholars, launching a flood of new write-ups and discoveries. But even if the work falls short of this ambitious goal, it offers, at the very least, a vast body of new information that should considerably increase our understanding of covers and postal practices for the 1860-72 period.

The reprint came about in this manner: In the fall of 1973, a member of the Collectors Club of Chicago, Michael Laurence, initiated a search of major U.S. libraries, in hopes of unearthing a number of specific issues of the *U.S. Mail*, previously thought not to exist, from the years 1869, 1870 and 1871. As a result of that search, in early 1974, the first 12 volumes of the *U.S. Mail*, complete and intact, were discovered at the Yale University Library. The run was somewhat battered, and some of the later issues had already begun to crumble. But overall, the material was in a marvelous state of preservation, owing partly to the fact that it had not been looked through for almost a century.

It was easy to determine, just glancing through the run, that the fragile pages could not withstand much handling. In fact, the delicacy of the paper on which many issues of the *U.S. Mail* were printed partly governed the quick appearance of this reprint. During the Civil War, as fiber for rag-content paper grew scarcer, paper manufacturers began experimenting with a wide variety of chemically based papers. Many of those early chemical papers were quite adequate to the needs of ephemeral periodicals, whose publishers cannot be blamed for giving little thought to whether their output would survive the passage of 100 years. Leafing through the run from which this reprint was made, one can see quite clearly how the quality of the paper deteriorated. Through the early 1860s, the publication was printed on a stock of fairly high rag content. Those issues are in marvelous con-

dition and a number of them exist, in various institutional and private holdings. However, as the decade of the 1860s passed, the rag content of the stock diminished. The pages tend to tear or crumble. In 1872, the *U.S. Mail* switched to wood-pulp paper and went to a new page size to accommodate it. The change in format is quite noticeable and the subsequent issues are much more difficult to read. Copies printed after this transformation, which took place with the July 1872 issue, are also much more difficult to find, because they tend to disintegrate at the slightest disturbance.

The great scarcity of the *U.S. Mail*, plus the extreme fragility and awkward size of the surviving copies, have forced the publishers of this reprint to make several compromises with what would ordinarily be sound publishing practice. We would have liked to have produced a life-sized reprint, so as to make the fine print a little easier on the eyes. But to do so would have resulted in a set of volumes almost a yard square, at a price so expensive that few could afford it. So we settled on the size at hand, and while the resulting print is small, it is at least legible. We suspect that few people will actually read this work from cover to cover but, rather, will consult specific pages, much as they would a dictionary or an encyclopedia, to answer specific questions. The introduction that follows gives some hints as to how the book should be used.

We would also have liked to have reprinted the full run, from 1860 through 1876, but, as is detailed in the Appendix to Volume Two, a number of issues after September 1872 have yet to be located. Other issues from that period exist only partially or in fragments. Still others survive only in microfilm form, the originals having disintegrated or disappeared. In some instances, the quality of this microfilm, while legible in a microfilm reader, is not adequate for reproduction through currently available printing techniques.

It is the ardent hope of the Collectors Club of Chicago that the publication of these two volumes will spark the discovery of the material needed to complete the third. Readers who have access to any *U.S. Mail* issues after September 1872 are urged to consult the Appendix to Volume Two to ascertain if the issue in question is one of the missing ones.

Volume One comprises the first six volumes of the *U.S. Mail*—from October 1860 through September 1866. Volume Two comprises the second six volumes—from October 1866 through September 1872. It was thought advisable to reprint the existing issues now, rather than wait to attempt completing the run, because of the great fragility of the issues at hand. Quite simply, we felt that the originals might not survive the wait.

Committee on Publications and
Administration of the
Clarence W. Hennan Memorial Fund

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Raymond Vogel
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Charles Hahn, Chairman

INTRODUCTION BY MICHAEL LAURENCE

The immense value of the *United States Mail and Post-Office Assistant* has long been appreciated by scholars fortunate enough to have access even to scattered fragments of this unique periodical. Apparently, the publication was not known to philatelists until well after the turn of the century. John K. Tiffany, one of the first serious U.S. philatelic scholars, a man so methodical that he tried to accumulate every scrap of printed information relating to U.S. stamps and postal affairs, never knew that the periodical existed. The *U.S. Mail* is not mentioned in the massive and definitive Crawford bibliography, published in 1911, which drew upon the philatelic libraries of both Tiffany and Hiram Deats.

By the early 1930s, Elliot Perry and Stanley Ashbrook had access to scattered issues of the *U.S. Mail* and made much use of them. More issues turned up in the 1940s, some of them located in merchant and technical libraries. The first six volumes (1860-66) have long been available in microfilm form, from the Library of Congress. Much of the original rate and route information Ashbrook published in his *Special Service* was drawn from various numbers of the *U.S. Mail*. The rate charts in George Hargest's *History of Letter Post Communication Between the United States and Europe*, for the 1860-75 period, also relied heavily on the *U.S. Mail*. By pooling the resources of many different institutions and private collectors, Professor Hargest was able to consult at least the rate charts (which appeared on the fourth page) of all but 28 issues. The specific dates and numbers are detailed on page 198 of his book.

As is explained in the Publisher's Preface, the two-volume work presented here is a reprint of the first 12 years of the *U.S. Mail*. Volume One of the reprint covers the first six *U.S. Mail* volumes, the monthly issues from October 1860 through September 1866. Volume Two comprises *U.S. Mail* volumes 7-12, the monthly issues from October 1866 through September 1872. It is hoped that the issues that are still missing, after 1872, will ultimately be located, so that a third reprint volume can be published, completing the run.

The *U.S. Mail* was designed to provide postmasters with information that was complete, readable and accessible. Its founder, James Holbrook, brought to this task a most appropriate blend of talents. In 1860, when he founded the *U.S. Mail*, Holbrook was already well known as an author, a journalist and an expert without peer in the day-to-day workings of the U.S. postal system. Since the *U.S. Mail* was so colored by Holbrook's background and personality, we have included a brief biography at the end of this introduction. Indeed, Holbrook's personality was so strong that it suffused the *U.S. Mail* more than a decade after his death. Much that appears in the pages that follow cannot be clearly understood without reference to him.

The periodical he set up was officially entitled *United States Mail and Post-Office Assistant*. On its inside pages, the magazine soon began calling itself the *U.S. Mail*, an economical abbreviation respected here. The first issue appeared in October 1860, and the format hardly varied from then on. Each monthly issue consisted of four pages, printed on both sides of one very large sheet of paper, which was then folded to yield a four-page newspaper, the type area of each page being comparable in size to that of a daily newspaper today.

While the contents of the *U.S. Mail* changed from month to month, the format of the publication was as rigid as granite, from the first issue to the last. Once

familiar with the format, postmasters could quickly locate information, on whatever subject, simply by turning to the appropriate spot on the appropriate page in the current issue.

Collectors who intend to use the information contained in the *U.S. Mail*, like the postmasters who subscribed to it when it was current, should become familiar with the format. This is best accomplished by reading a number of issues from beginning to end. But for those who lack such patience, a broad-brush summary follows. It cannot be overemphasized that the specific items cited in the columns that follow are just minuscule samples of the contents, selected quite randomly, with no other thought than to suggest the sort of information to be found in the *U.S. Mail* each month and to hint at the staggeringly broad range of philatelic subjects on which the periodical provided information, regularly or irregularly.

Each page of the *U.S. Mail* contained between 5000 and 10,000 words. Different types of information were presented on each of the four pages. We attempt below to describe, in a most general way, the sort of information to be found on each. Readers are cautioned that these descriptions are nothing more than heroic generalizations, which may or may not be completely realized in any given issue. In other words, where we say that a given chart or write-up is published on page two, there may be some months where it is to be found on any of the other pages and still other months when it is not to be found at all. Still, the format was generally adhered to, allowing us to describe the periodical, with some accuracy, page by page.

PAGE ONE

Page one contains information of general interest to postmasters. Procedural matters are rarely, if ever, discussed here. Much of the page-one material is of great interest and value to collectors and postal historians, but they must always remember that this information was published solely to enlighten and entertain postmasters during their idle hours. The postmaster did not need the page-one material to do his job: Nuts-and-bolts information was always presented on pages two, three and four.

The type of material that appears on page one can be roughly divided into three categories: official reports, news items and ephemera. Of these three categories, the first two are the most interesting to collectors and postal historians.

- Official reports would include postmaster-general reports (which were sometimes abstracted and sometimes published in full, usually in December or January, depending on when the official report was released); texts of postal treaties (the December 1868 issue, for example, publishes the full text of the new postal convention with Great Britain, together with the detailed regulations needed to put the convention into effect); regulatory announcements (such as the rules governing the forwarding of carrier-delivered letters, published in November

1870) and official interpretations of existing postal laws and regulations (such as the extensive write-up, in the July 1864 issue, of the Act of June 30, 1864).

- The second category, news items, comprises a wide range of subjects, some of them treated in great depth. Most of the front page for August 1863, for example, is devoted to a detailed write-up of the Paris conference, including a full listing of the principles that were generally agreed upon by the participating nations. The Paris conference, as is well known, was the first substantial step toward the Universal Postal Union; the principles agreed upon in Paris governed many aspects of the handling of international mails from 1863 through 1876.

September 1864 publishes the complete text of Rowland Hill's moving and eloquent resignation statement, wherein he summarized his accomplishments in setting up the contemporary posts.

The May 1870 issue gives a detailed and quite critical analysis of the recently renewed contract between the British government and the Cunard line.

And the front pages for September and October 1869 provide useful insights into the deteriorating postal relationship with France, which led to the expiration of the treaty with France on the last day of 1869, ushering in the non-treaty period, source of so many fascinating and enigmatic covers.

Also falling into the news category are the many interesting write-ups about the postal systems of various nations. Since they were written for the enlightenment of U.S. postmasters, they often provide information useful in interpreting surviving covers. The front page of the very first issue contains a write-up of the postal affairs of Mexico. In subsequent issues, many other countries are treated, some of them quite surprising (Russia and Egypt, for instance). The write-up of the French postal system, in the April 1870 issue, is especially valuable.

Write-ups of historical matters also fall into this category. The January 1869 issue discusses the first recorded pony express, supposedly set up in Persia, under Cyrus the Great, in 599 B.C. The U.S. colonial posts seem to have especially interested the editors of the *U.S. Mail* and are repeatedly discussed in front-page articles. The first of these appears in the second issue (November 1860) and others follow sporadically throughout. The publication of *Hugh Finlay's Journal*, an important document in early American postal history, sparked an enthusiastic two-part review, freely excerpting from the book itself. It began on page one of the November 1867 issue and concluded the following February.

Among the vast number of news items published on page one will be found a good many of specific interest to philatelists. The June 1864 issue, for example, contains a very provocative write-up of the debatable facts surrounding the so-called Morman stamps. (A subsequent issue acknowledges that the stamps were spurious.) The issue for September 1864 contains an extensive and charming write-up on stamp collecting, one of the earliest ever published in the U.S. Among other things, it attempts to list all the stamp publications then in existence, a considerable challenge to contemporary bibliophiles. And the November 1867 issue contains a brief but fact-filled history of straight-line markings and other early U.S. canceling devices.

Also in the news category are biographical sketches (and obituaries) of postmasters general and other high postal officials; write-ups of contemporary legal decisions affecting the Post Office (Is gold dust mailable matter? see March 1870); and any other off-beat news item that might have tickled the editors' fancy, such as the account of the newly patented device (described none too favorably in November 1870) that would replace postmasters with simple mechanical robots.

- As for the third category of page-one items, ephemera, here we see the editors of the periodical striving to fill the holes that remained after all the news had been put in place. The front page of the June 1865 issue tells the tale of a truly remarkable gun-boat cover. Unfortunately, the entire report is nothing more than an elaborate spoof. Too bad, because the cover, were it to exist, would be an astonishing postal-history item. Poems also serve as filler, as do write-ups of unusually addressed envelopes. It would be interesting to compare surviving covers against the frequent *U.S. Mail* write-ups, to see if any of them match up.

The assassination of President Lincoln provoked not only a black-bordered editorial on page two but also a poem on page one. The editors seem to have been so intent on memorializing the fallen President that they forgot to change the magazine number: The May 1865 issue, which should have been called volume 5, number 8, is mistakenly printed volume 5, number 7. Other misnomenclature has also been noted, and for this reason we have numbered the pages. We have learned, in writing this introduction, that it's easier to refer to a single page number than to recite a litany of volumes, numbers, months and pages, a mistake in any one of which can misplace a reference. We would vastly have preferred to cite page numbers here, but, alas, the page numbers do not exist as we write these words.

Also in the ephemera category, we place letters from postmasters, writing about nothing in particular. They appear frequently, but see, as an example, those of August 1863 and the recurrent letters from two indefatigable (and perhaps mythical) correspondents — Monsieur Tonson (giving his observations on postal affairs "between Boston and Buffalo") and the anonymous Nicotinus, sort of a successor to Tonson, who provides postal homilies and common-sense observations for postmasters. For a typical example of Tonson's contributions, see April 1865, wherein he waxes polemical about the dangers of postmen giving letters to children, one of the recurrent preoccupations of the *U.S. Mail*.

Similarly ephemeral are the numerous write-ups of mail robberies, reports of various crime-stopping adventures of the Post Office's special agents and the frequent excerpts from *Ten Years Among the Mail Bags*. This, of course, was the best-selling book Holbrook wrote some years before he founded the *U.S. Mail*. It established his reputation and became quite a popular success. The number of copies that survive, even today, attests to its popularity in 1855, the year it was first published. Presumably, Holbrook retained a large number of copies, because both ads for the book and excerpts therefrom persist in the *U.S. Mail* years after his death. The first page of the first issue contains some quotations from *Ten Years*, and these echo like a fugue through the subsequent numbers. Even in October 1870, for example, years after Holbrook's death, there's yet another excerpt.

Perhaps the quintessential example of ephemera appears in February 1865. This is *The Fatal Contract*, subtitled *A Short Story for Postal Clerks*. This seems worthy of a candle-lit winter night.

To summarize: The contents of page one changed completely each month. The material contained in the various opening pages ranges widely over many different subjects and contains a great many write-ups that should prove most useful to contemporary scholars and collectors. But very few items on page one contained information that would affect the postmaster's working life in terms

of how much he charged for a given letter, how he rated, routed or marked it. This information was contained in the three pages to which we now turn.

PAGE TWO

Page two was devoted to procedural changes. Here were published the new rules and regulations that changed the way postage was assessed or the manner in which mail was rated and routed. This was where the postmaster would first look for rules or interpretations that would affect the conduct of his official affairs. The contents of the various second pages can, like those of the first, be roughly divided into three broad categories. These are: the official endorsement, which was always the first item in the first column on page two; official announcements respecting foreign and domestic rate changes and other rule changes that might affect the way postmasters handled mail; and interpretations, both of the postal laws and of the regulations, whether the interpreting was done by the Post Office officially or by the *U.S. Mail* editors semiofficially. These three categories are discussed in turn.

The official endorsement was crucially important, both to the success of the *U.S. Mail* as a publishing endeavor and to its credibility as an official source of information. The very first issue of the *U.S. Mail*, at the top of the first column on the second page, made it quite clear how closely the publication was associated with the Post Office. Copies of the first issue, the notice said, were being sent "to all Postmasters throughout the United States, under the frank of the Post Office Department and by the authority and direction of the postmaster general." For a privately owned publication, this is about as official an endorsement as a publisher could want. Needless to say, it reflects Holbrook's close ties to the Post Office establishment. The editorial that follows this official benediction, in the first and second columns on the second page of the first issue, describes quite explicitly what Holbrook intended the *U.S. Mail* to be: "The ordinary means . . . hitherto relied upon by the Department for promulgating its directions, orders, decisions, and additional legislation, has been the issue of circulars and written communications—a process so expensive and laborious that it cannot be well applied to the minor details of the service, which from its nature must be somewhat changeable." The editorial goes on to suggest that the *U.S. Mail* could also help meet commercial needs for "timely and reliable postal intelligence" and states that "it will be our aim to make this paper not only useful to businessmen and post office employees, but interesting and instructive to all classes of the community. It will be exclusively devoted to postal affairs, not overlooking the many remarkable facts and incidents in which post office experience is so fruitful. In short, we shall be much disappointed if we do not succeed in making the *U.S. Mail* an indispensable auxiliary to the important branch of the public service to which it will be devoted." How well Holbrook succeeded in this endeavor is evidenced by the facts not only that his magazine flourished all the way up to the U.P.U. but also that now, almost 100 years after the *U.S. Mail's* demise, much effort has been devoted to produce this reprint of the only surviving run. The publication indeed provided the "timely and reliable postal intelligence" Holbrook promised.

The official endorsement appears in every issue of the publication, always at the top of the first column of the second page. The best example can be found in the December 1869 issue, where the *U.S. Mail* quite understandably celebrates the endorsement of its fourth consecutive postmaster general.

The endorsement is invariably followed by official announcements. If, for a given month, there are several official announcements (as is usually the case), they are typically arranged according to the editors' view of their importance.

From the hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of official announcements published in this section of page two, we cite below a half dozen or so, totally without regard to their historic importance or philatelic significance, but just to give a limited sampling of their range and comprehensiveness:

- July 1863 has the notice of the rate changes, through the British mail system via Marseilles, effective June 1, 1863.

- June 1865 shows the amendments to the Act of March 3, 1865, giving details about penny postmen, drop letters, free letters, unpaid letters, canceling devices and obscene mail. The latter is a detailed but unilluminating description of what sort of material was deemed nonmailable on grounds of obscenity.

- January 1869 has the announcement of the reduction of the domestic registration fee from 20 cents to 15 cents, effective January 1, 1869.

- The May 1869 issue includes the announcement of lower postal rates to Sweden through the mails of the North German Union. Effective April 9, 1869, letters to Sweden via the N.G.U. through closed mail via England cost 19 cents per half ounce; direct letters, also through the N.G.U., cost 14 cents.

- May 1869 also reports it was possible to register letters via the Pacific route to Yokohama and Shanghai. The registry fee was 8 cents, to be paid in stamps in addition to the applicable ordinary rate.

- June 1869 shows that under the new treaty, it was possible to send books and seed packets to Hong Kong, and lists the rates.

One could go on and on. Page two presents the official announcements in a format and a style that local postmasters could understand. No matter what the treaties or the acts of Congress say, we must refer to these official announcements to learn when and how legislative intentions were actually put into effect.

Needless to say, the official announcements varied in length and in number from month to month. But no matter their number or their length, they seem always to have been followed by interpretations. These are most important to philatelists, because in many instances they are the only surviving source clarifying legislation that has long been a matter of public record.

As a sampling from the great wealth of interpretative material to be drawn upon, we cite the following:

- July 1863 gives an important interpretation of the new postal laws, explaining (among other things) details of the functioning of the 3-cent internal rate and of the drop rate.

● September 1865 contains detailed rules telling postmasters how to treat and mark uncalled-for letters that have to be advertised. This small subject in itself could generate a collection worthy of exhibition. The write-up in this one article constitutes material enough for a thorough interpretation of “advertised” covers.

● November 1869 contains quite an extensive write-up of how covers to Russia should be addressed. This isn’t of much interest to most, but will be read eagerly by the collector who specializes in such items.

● The second page of the August 1869 issue contains a full write-up of the registry rates to France and beyond through the French mails. In fact, the various second and third pages contain a wealth of information on both domestic and foreign registry rates and procedures. One could hope that the information contained in this reprint is sufficient to provoke more study in the hitherto neglected area of registered mail.

● Page two of the January 1870 issue contains subtle and important distinctions between pamphlet, book and printed matter. This and much other page-two information should prove useful to collectors who have odd-category covers and wrappers that have previously been unexplainable.

● Page two of the January 1870 issue also contains a lengthy explanation of “letters outside the mails,” giving rules governing their treatment.

● The August 1869 issue contains the first mention of the completion of the transcontinental railroad. This was very late, to be sure, since the railroad was completed in May and regular mails were being carried on it as early as June. Nonetheless, the announcement is there, on page two. Among other things, it mentions that “the redskins have made, as yet, no serious attempt to destroy the track in revenge for their ‘wrongs.’” Holbrook was notoriously anti-Indian, as a reading of some of the gorier chapters of his earlier book will make clear. Subsequent articles in the *U.S. Mail* (as they did so often) exhibited these prejudices.

● April 1865, almost at the conclusion of the Civil War, gives information on soldiers’ letters and how they should be rated and routed. Earlier issues, during the height of the war, provide more detailed information. The run of the *U.S. Mail* reprinted herewith brackets the Civil War almost in its entirety and is surely a gold mine of research information on that subject.

In an earlier draft of this introduction, we had called the *U.S. Mail* not just research information but *primary* research information. An amiable and respected colleague criticized this designation, pointing out that primary research applies only to original documents from archival sources. We concur in this distinction and urge future scholars to understand that the *U.S. Mail* cannot technically be considered a primary research source.

But it is an excellent secondary source. And given the facts that (unlike Britain, for example) virtually no official U.S. foreign-mail records have survived; that the U.S. Post Office Department has traditionally shown little respect for the historicity of its actions on all fronts; that the original reprinted here gathered dust in the bowels of a major library for the better part of a century; that every issue of the *U.S. Mail* bore the official endorsement of the postmaster general; and (most important) that, given the well-known paucity of archival material relating to U.S. postal history, at least compared with that of other Western nations, this is the best information we now have, whether it be called primary, secondary or even tertiary; given all these facts, we deem the work eminently worthy of publication. Actually, it might well be called tertiary information, because official proclamations (the originals of which have yet to be found) had to be transmitted to the editors of the *U.S. Mail* in a letter (copies of which have not been located) prior to being published in the pages reprinted here. We hope that the work reprinted here will stimulate a more thorough search of our postal archives, yielding evidence that will either supplement or contradict the words that follow. In either case, it will have served its purpose.

Another important source of interpretative information, also appearing on page two, was the question-and-answer column. Here the editors of the *U.S. Mail*, presumably speaking authoritatively, answered readers’ queries on a wide variety of postal subjects. This feature must have been very popular. It began in the first issue and continued through all subsequent ones.

A typical single issue contains perhaps 20 such items, of which the following (all from the various second pages) are but a very brief sampling:

● In the May 1870 issue, the editors answer a query by reaffirming that bisected stamps are not valid for postal use. That postmasters should be unclear about bisects as late as 1870 is also evidenced by the fairly large number of illegal but apparently accepted bisects from that period that exist.

● In the August 1870 issue, an inquiring postmaster is informed that a drop letter paid with a revenue stamp must be sent directly to the dead-letter office unless arrangements can be made for the postage to be paid. Sometimes such arrangements *were* made, with the proper postage affixed by a private party, who would then add a sticker to the envelope, saying that he had done so, and soliciting compensation.

● In the November 1870 issue, we find replies to questions about what sort of envelopes qualify for the special rates for seed packets and about whether daguerreotypes can be mailed as printed matter. This last question (to which the answer is no) appears more than once as the years pass, finally prompting the editors to include this information with the standing rules and procedures on page three.

● In the May 1870 issue are responses clarifying points about free franking, postage on newspapers and forwarding. The whole subject of free franking, incidentally, is discussed continuously and at length throughout the years represented here, a fact that should make this reprint a most useful research source for those doing further study on this interesting subject.

● The April 1870 issue contains a reply that gives a detailed explanation of the circumstances under which an addressee could refuse a letter and of what the postmaster must then do with it.

● In the December 1870 issue, a reply warns postmasters about the grave dangers of handing letters over to children. As mentioned earlier, keeping mail

from children was an especial preoccupation of the editors of the *U.S. Mail*. Perhaps this is why so many youngsters during that era became collectors.

● In the November 1867 issue, under the heading “Mailing Letters on the Cars,” we learn that “as it is the duty of Route Agents to receive letters written after the mail has closed, citizens have the right to avail themselves of the privilege thus afforded, but they cannot require postmasters to send such letters to the station.” The use and abuse of route agents was also a topic of frequent discussion.

● In April 1870, we learn that there was a brief period, from 1868 to 1869, when all postmasters, no matter what the size of their office, were sent free marking devices, courtesy of the Post Office. Apparently, this policy was allowed to expire in 1869.

One of the continuing topics of discussion in the question-and-answer section was registered-mail rates. Clearly, the postmasters, especially in the smaller localities, were very confused about the subject. Confusion about it endures to this day, in the form of a great many covers (including many to overseas destinations) that are probably registered but cannot be definitively stated to be such, in the absence of solid information about rates and procedures. The publication of these two volumes is a first step toward remedying that situation. The next step is for interested collectors and students to digest the registry information contained herein and make it more accessible to the ordinary collector. For, while the editors of the *U.S. Mail* plead almost petulantly (in the question-and-answer section for December 1870), “We cannot give any plainer instructions for registering mail,” it is clear, retrospectively, that they could have. In the July 1869 query section, as an example, in response to the question of why the *U.S. Mail* didn’t give information about registry rates to France, the editors reply that the rates in question were “too complicated to describe.” (In subsequent issues, the information did prove describable and was presented.) Registry rates to other foreign destinations were usually presented descriptively (rather than in chart form) on page three, to which we shall shortly turn.

Sometimes letters from readers provoked lengthier treatment, as on page two of the June 1869 issue, where a “M. Quadrat” of “Tarheel Depot” complains vehemently about the new series of postage stamps (the 1869s) on the grounds that they are “poorly engraved, badly printed, insignificant in size and scant in sizing.” The editors of the *U.S. Mail*, to their unending credit, respond with equal vigor in defense of the stamps, observing that—among other things—the designs of the new stamps “have better claims to originality and beauty than those of any stamps that have previously been in use.”

To summarize, page two was devoted to procedural changes and clarifications. The official endorsement changed rarely, but the rest of the page generally contained new information each month.

PAGE THREE

The page-three information can also be divided into three broad categories: charts and tables, which were changed or updated each month; rules and regulations, which changed only when necessary; and advertisements, which changed at the whim of the advertiser. All of the page-three material is important, even the advertisements.

We discuss first the charts and tables, which are perhaps the most valuable of all the information contained in the *U.S. Mail*.

● **Sailings from New York:** Most issues contain a chart detailing mail sailings from New York for the month at hand. The chart includes all the contract-mail vessels that were scheduled to leave New York that month, to whatever destination. Thus it provides information useful to the interpretation of foreign-mail covers that exited this country from New York, as the vast majority did. Included in the chart are the name of the steamship line, the scheduled sailing date, the destination, the name of the country holding the mail contract and miscellaneous information about the route. It should be emphasized that these were *scheduled* sailing dates, published before the fact. More complete information—listing actual departure dates—is available from the records of the steamship companies, and we look forward to seeing it published. But until then, the monthly sailing charts in the *U.S. Mail* are the best we have, even though they may not, in any specific instance, show the actual date a ship left New York. Typically, the New York date stamps show the day of sailing. Mail from exchange offices more remote than New York was made up and stamped in time for it to reach New York before sailing. The time of mail closings at New York, and the mail time between New York and various other domestic points, can be gleaned from other page-three charts, discussed below. The point to be made here is that for the 1860–72 period, we now have a definitive record of foreign-mail departures from New York, by which individual dates can be matched against the exchange-office date stamp on any given cover. Previously, this information wasn’t generally available. It should prove a good additional check against fraud or forgery. In the early issues, the steamer sailing schedule is found in the lower right corner of page four; after January 1868, it is usually found on page three.

● **London sailings:** Since much U.S. foreign mail traveled at least part of its route in the British mail service, the *U.S. Mail* editors also included a monthly chart of London mail sailings. This allowed correspondents in the U.S. to send their letters on the last transatlantic steamer that would connect with a given British mail steamer, from London, to the many points abroad that were served exclusively or largely by the British mails. These London dates correlate with the London markings that are usually seen on U.S. covers that passed through the British mails. Thus these dates, too, are a check against tampering.

● **Transpacific sailings:** As world-wide mail service improved, so did the *U.S. Mail*’s tabular coverage of the various departures. Shortly after the subsidized steamships began plying between San Francisco and the Orient, the *U.S. Mail* began publishing a chart showing transpacific sailing information. Page three of the May 1869 issue shows a good example of this, quite an elaborate chart showing the China–Japan sailing schedules from San Francisco for the following six-month period, giving projected arrival and departure dates, both ways, for mail that would touch at Shanghai, Hong Kong, Yokohama, San Francisco and New York.

● **Post Office openings and closings:** Beginning with the first issue and continuing throughout, the *U.S. Mail* regularly published page-three listings of Post

Office openings and closings. These were divided into four categories: new openings, discontinued offices, name changes and reopened offices. The listings each month were quite extensive, sometimes running into hundreds of names. Gleaned directly from the Post Office Department, they ought to be regarded as a good new source of information for collectors of local markings.

• **Carrier mails:** The volumes reprinted here encompass the growth years of the U.S. carrier-mail service. The *U.S. Mail*, on page three, published a monthly listing of carrier cities, which gradually lengthened as the number of such cities increased. Each month, the chart included the names of all the carrier cities, the number of carriers in each and the volume of mail they carried that month, broken down into regular letters, drop letters and other appropriate categories. The consecutive monthly carrier charts can be used to determine the approximate date that carrier service became available in each city in the U.S., thus clearing up some of the confusion between double-rate drop and carrier covers. (The carrier charts, incidentally, often appeared on page two and sometimes even on page one.) Those interested in this subject are specifically referred to page three of the May 1869 issue, where the rules and regulations relating to carrier and drop letters are spelled out in some detail.

• **Exchange offices:** Occasionally, the *U.S. Mail* would publish a list of all the exchange offices in the U.S. and the specific countries and mail services with which they exchanged. Such information really wasn't useful enough to warrant inclusion every month, but an example may be found on page three of the May 1869 issue.

• **Postmaster appointments:** These were published as regularly as the Government issued listings and were usually divided by sex. The generic heading "Female Postmasters Appointed," which can be found on page three of the February 1865 issue, had given way to the more delicate "Ladies Appointed" by November 1867. Sexism aside, the listing of postmaster appointments is a good source of information for collectors of small-town covers.

• **Other charts and tables:** The tabular material published on page three is far too complex to discuss comprehensively. Sometimes a chart was published only infrequently, depending on editorial whim or popular demand. Among the tabular material on page three, we note a chart showing mail time from New York to various other domestic points (published in the first issue and updated subsequently); charts of mail-closing times in New York (October 1864 is a good example, but there are many others); and a list of distributing post offices (published less frequently, but see page three of April 1868 for an example).

The rules and regulations, while less frequently changed, also appeared on page three, usually in the opening columns. Here is where a postmaster would first look if confronted by a cover that required an unusual routing or rating. The information in these columns was updated only when necessary, but even the infrequent changes have significance. Page three of the September 1865 issue, for example, carries a lengthy section on "mails to the South," giving details on how letters should be addressed to the occupying Union armies. Similarly, during the appropriate period, a write-up on U.S. Note markings, under the heading "Collections in Coin," also appears on page three (see November 1869).

Foreign-registry rates, as mentioned above, were also discussed in the opening columns of the third page. These were an ever-changing panoply of numbers, which surely explains why they are so little understood by collectors to this day. As an example, the April 1869 issue reveals that the foreign-registry rates in effect that month were as follows (all these sums being in addition to the ordinary postage): British North America, 5 cents; United Kingdom or German mail system, 8 cents; Papal States, 12 cents; British colonies via British mail, 16 cents; and Egypt, 20 cents. On the subject of foreign-registry rates, the *U.S. Mail* must be reckoned a largely unexploited research source.

The rules-and-regulations section on page three also includes irregular information on the subject of Canadian correspondence. The April 1869 issue, for example, gives good details, including statistics, about cross-border correspondence, as do the October 1860 and October 1868 issues. A listing of the various exchange offices between the U.S. and Canada was an irregular feature (see February 1865).

This section also detailed information about correspondence to the West Indies, where a surprisingly complex pattern of rates and routes prevailed. The June 1869 issue lists the various destinations (and routes) that required the 3-cent rate, the 10-cent rate and the 18-cent rate. Many of these destinations and rates are quite challenging, and on-cover examples for a good number of them have not yet been found.

In addition to these specific standing features to be found on page three, the diligent reader will encounter much other useful information, relating to domestic rates, not only for ordinary and extraordinary letters but also for books, printed matter, newspapers (the rates here were quite complex), samples, seed packets and many other types of mailable matter. These unusual rates also applied to foreign mails and, in both categories, go a long way toward explaining covers that up to now have not been explainable. For a quintessential example of the lengths to which the *U.S. Mail* editors would go in getting useful information to their subscribers, interested parties should consult page three of the November 1867 issue, which contains a write-up of several hundred words, including a chart, detailing special printed-matter rates from the U.S. to Argentina via the French mails.

Page three also contained ads. Many of the marking devices, seals and even adhesives that postmasters used during this period were privately manufactured, and the manufacturers would logically resort to the pages of the *U.S. Mail* to advertise their wares. The Zevely firm, as an example, known for the quality of the postal-marking devices it manufactured, was a frequent advertiser. A good example of one of Zevely's many advertisements can be seen on page three of the April 1865 issue. The later years of the *U.S. Mail* also featured advertisements for Frank Leslie's publications (see the May 1869 issue). These are of no philatelic interest whatsoever, but they do provide a marvelous insight into the social history of Reconstruction America.

PAGE FOUR

Page four occasionally contained ads or charts that didn't conveniently fit on page three, but it was largely devoted to the foreign-mail rate chart. This chart, published every month, was designed to show the cost of sending any sort of

letter, no matter what its weight, from the U.S. to any foreign destination with which it had mail correspondence. Given the current popularity of foreign-mail covers, the rate chart is decidedly the most glamorous of all the monthly features of the *U.S. Mail*.

However, it is also the most misleading. Given its awesome complexity, it could not pretend to be accurate down to the last detail, and often it wasn't. Errors of two types seem to have occurred. First, upon receipt of the official notice of a rate change from the Post Office Department (which would be published on page two), the editors would sometimes fail to make all the appropriate changes in the rate chart. These omissions were all too easy to make, since the chart lists not only countries but also provinces, regions and important towns. Sometimes a change might be made for the country but left intact for places within that country. As an obscure but significant example, the British-Mail-via-Marseilles rate to Siam was changed by an official proclamation published in the January 1865 issue, but the former rate to "Bangkok, Siam" remained in the chart all the way through 1867. Second, the printer often compounded the confusion by dropping columns down one line or by omitting numbers. As an example, the Prussian-closed-mail rate to countries beyond Germany was reduced 2 cents on prepaid mail in May 1863. These changes were so noted in the chart, except that the rate to Sinope, which should have been reduced from 40 cents to 38 cents, was carried as 3 cents until November 1863 and then printed as 30 cents until 1867.

This is not to say that monthly rate charts are not generally accurate. Most important, they are quite accurate (or errors were quickly corrected) in the information they give for countries or destinations with which the U.S. had frequent correspondence. However, information in the rate charts, especially as it relates to obscure destinations, should never be taken as gospel without first checking against the official announcements that appeared on the second page. Much of the necessary cross-checking has already been done by Professor Hargest in the rate charts published as an appendix to his transatlantic book. In checking the Hargest information against that published in the *U.S. Mail*, only a handful of errors has so far been found, and many of these are surely of the typographical variety. It will probably be useful, at some point in the future, to publish a minor revision of the Hargest charts. But this task, if it is necessary at all, should wait not only the digestion of the material contained in the following pages but also the discovery of whatever primary documents it might bring forth.

JAMES HOLBROOK

Both the format and the content of the *U.S. Mail* were largely the creation of one man, James Holbrook. He was a gifted journalist, a postal historian and a Post Office employee. He had a strong practical streak, a clear and witty writing style, a good sense of self-promotion and a wonderful ability to render com-



THE DANCING HORSE—James Holbrook, Special Agent for the U. S. Post Office (and later editor-publisher of the U. S. Mail) unsuspectingly mounts a circus-trained pony, on his way to apprehending a wily mail-robber. (Illustrations from Holbrook's engaging 1855 memoir, *Ten Years Among the Mail Bags*.)

plicated rules and regulations intelligible to laymen. Much of the factual information that follows was gleaned from the several obituaries that appeared in the *U.S. Mail* immediately after his death.

Holbrook was born in Boston in 1811 and moved to Windham County, Connecticut, at the age of 21. Between 1832 and 1836, he was editor of the *Windham County Advertiser*. By all contemporary accounts, he distinguished himself

In 1836, he founded and successfully ran the *Norwich Aurora*, and in the early 1840s, he was editor and publisher of the *Hartford State Eagle*. He was always active in Democratic and Whig politics, and during the Tyler Administration, he entered public service. After holding several different Government jobs, he received a commission, in 1845, as special agent (for the New England region) for the Post Office Department.

During those days, the Post Office special agents were an elite and lionized crew—early James Bond figures, traveling about the country incognito, deviously seeking out mail robbers and protecting the integrity of the posts. Their ex-



AN EARLY JAMES BOND—Gambling and boozing in disreputable establishments were all in a day's work for a Post Office Special Agent in the 1850s. Here a bearded Holbrook is shown bowling with a mail-robber in a low-life saloon, in an ultimately successful attempt to trick the villain into revealing his guilt.

ploits were widely written up in the press, and Holbrook, given his journalistic background and his many newspaper contacts, received a good share of this publicity.

Many of the tactics of the special agents, so widely celebrated in their day, would nowadays be regarded as illegal. Special agents regularly performed what was even then known as surveillance on unwitting postal employees. They also used entrapment devices, decoys, plants and all manner of other ruses specifically designed to entice the unprincipled postal employee into committing a crime, whereupon the offender would be quickly arrested and convicted and the heroic exploits of the victorious special agent widely publicized.

Holbrook retained his special-agent commission until his death in 1864, despite the fact that by then he was much more a journalist than a postal official. In those days, of course, moonlighting on the part of public officials was commonplace. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, in a eulogy to Holbrook published in the June 1864 *U.S. Mail*, made judicious note of Holbrook's dual life: "He was an example of a public officer whose zeal for the service did not abate by the length of his term. . . . Whilst devoting his efforts to the public interest, he attended also, in a proper and moderate way, to his own affairs; and the newspaper established by him . . . indicates his practical ability to blend useful public service with that proper regard for his private interests, essential to honest discharge of public duty."

The best remembered of Holbrook's moonlighting activities was a book he wrote in 1855—*Ten Years Among the Mail Bags or, Notes from the Diary of a Special Agent of the Post Office Department*. This was mainly a chronicle of his exploits as a postal Pinkerton, and its individual chapters can properly be regarded as precursors to the dime novel. The book was generously dedicated to every postal worker in America, and many of them must have bought it, since the work was published in tens of thousands of copies, in several different editions, in at least three cities. It was reprinted as late as 1888 and can still be found today in various sales of philatelic literature and also, at more reasonable prices, in used-book shops.

Of Holbrook as a man, we know less. The *U.S. Mail*, on page one of the June 1864 issue, published as an obituary tribute a character sketch of Holbrook that had earlier appeared in the *New York Leader*. Holbrook was described thus: "Very agile, very dapper, dressed in neat professional black, and always looking as if he had just dressed for a visit to his beloved 'Department,' this gentleman, rather below the middle height, and of slender but active build, with piercingly keen blue eyes framed under heavy black eyebrows, in florid New England features, these again framed in a dense black growth of oval whiskers—this active and perplexingly subtle physiognomist, whose quick blue eyes seem to flash into the very depths of your nature, is Mr. James Holbrook, author of 'Ten Years Among the Mail Bags' and for the last fifteen years or more, the most trusted and reliable Special Agent of the Post Office Department." This being just a single sentence from the profile mentioned, the reader can understand our reluctance to quote further. We cannot resist commenting, however, that even this

obituary tribute carried not only a plug for Holbrook's book but also a detailed delineation (not quoted above) of the grievously underpaid status of the Post Office special agents. To the last, Holbrook was a promoter.

While the central subject of *Ten Years Among the Mail Bags* was Post Office crime and its detection (a subject subsequently explored in the pages of the *U.S. Mail*), the book is equally revealing of the personality and world view of the founder of the *U.S. Mail*. It is clear, even from a cursory reading of *Ten Years*, that its author was by instinct a postal historian. As an example, the following apologetic note appears at the conclusion of Holbrook's preface to *Ten Years*: "It was the author's intention to give two or three chapters of a historical and biographical character—a condensed history of our post-office system, with some notice of that of other countries. . . . But matter essential to the completeness of the work in hand, illustrating the varieties of crime in connection with post offices, has so accumulated, that the chapters referred to could not be introduced without enlarging the volume to unreasonable dimensions." The *U.S. Mail*, which Holbrook founded in 1860, gave him the space in which to ventilate these pent-up urges. The periodical published millions and millions of words, a great many of them relating precisely to "the history of our post office system, with some notice of that of other countries," that Holbrook did not have room for in his earlier memoirs.

One of Holbrook's continuing concerns was that postal information be made accessible to the general public. In fact, it may not be an exaggeration to state that this preoccupation colored his entire adult life, as attested to by the material presented in these two volumes. A foretaste appears in the "supplemental chapter" that was rather rudely appended to *Ten Years*, more or less complementing the apology quoted above: "The design of the author, in the preparation of the present volume, would be but imperfectly answered were he to fail to communicate practical information which it is very desirable that the public at large should possess. . . . There are popular errors on many matters connected with post-office regulations which are every day causing trouble and vexation, and which can only be corrected by presenting the facts as they are. This information is not presented to the public in general; at least, it is inaccessible, and is not kept before the people. The Department publishes, at irregular intervals, an edition of its laws and regulations for the use of postmasters, each of whom is supplied with a copy; and this, with the exception of the ordinary newspaper record of the laws as they are passed, is the only source of information upon this subject open to people in general. . . . It is the intention of the author to supply these deficiencies."

In this initial endeavor, publishing his memoirs, Holbrook admitted having failed. But he still intended "to supply these deficiencies," and in commencing publication of the *U.S. Mail*, he succeeded. The material reprinted here is, to our knowledge, the most complete and comprehensive document of U.S. postal practices for the 12 years in question. The fact that it has never before been available, rather than compromising its usefulness, enhances it. We are happy to present "the facts as they are," both in the spirit and in the format in which their publisher issued them. To collectors and historians in years to come, we throw out the task of digesting and collating the massive information contained in these volumes, in the comfortable knowledge that James Holbrook would fully bless this undertaking if he were with us to do so.

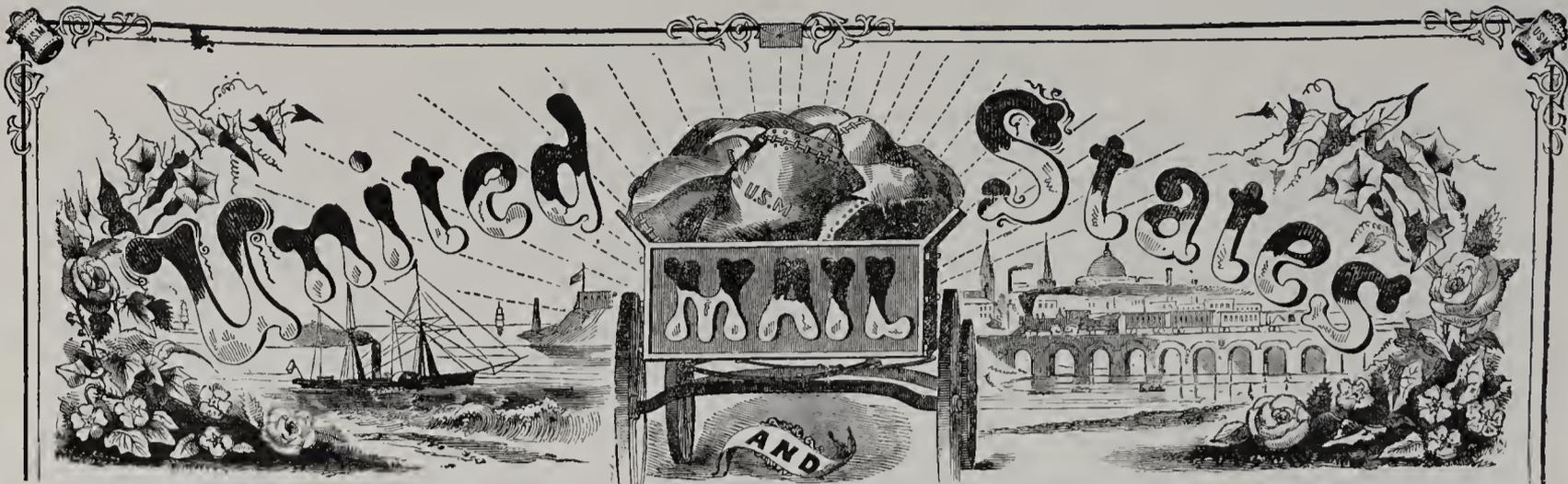
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POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1860.

No. 1.

The Chloroform Case.

Adam Keck is one of the "sons of Anak;" and could old Anak return to the earth and behold his stalwart form, he would rejoice at being so worthily represented by his offspring. Adam, in addition to his distinguished descent, enjoys the honor of having been selected by Uncle Sam for the responsible post of Route Agent—a position which he is in every way well qualified to fill. Among his official brethren he occupies an eminence like that which the "Benicia Boy" has attained among the nation at large. Heenan had his Sayers, and Keck his Jackson, and the latter American champion was no less triumphant over his adversary than the former, as we shall proceed to show.

On a certain occasion our hero left New York for Cincinnati by the Erie Railroad, in charge of his mails as usual, in a car provided by the company for the mail service. After passing the "Susquehanna division," above Port Jarvis, and quite late at night, having a long stretch to run, upon which no stops and no delivery of mails were to be made, our friend sought to escape the tedium of the solitary night-journey by retreating into the realms of oblivion. Accordingly he spread his blanket in a convenient place and yielded himself to the blandishments of that very agreeable deity, Morpheus.

His slumbers, however, were neither deep nor quiet. The responsibilities of his situation, perhaps conspiring with some slight uneasiness of the digestive organs, permitted only a disturbed sleep full of dreams and half waking fancies. He saw in his imaginings, a heavy shower of "Instructions" from the department descending upon his devoted head, attended by the mutterings of official thunder. In his extremity, he tried in vain to open an umbrella to shield him from "the rude peltings of the pitiless storm," but it wouldn't open; and in the midst of his vain efforts he partly woke, and felt the falling of drops upon his face, which he might have taken as a sort of realizing of his dream, were it not that official "instructions" by reason of their dryness, could hardly be conceived of, even by a person only half awake, as descending in a fluid form. So he took a more precise view of the case, and at first supposed that it was raining, and that the roof of the car might be leaky. By this time his faculties were awake, and an odor, which to many is like that of gales from "Araby the Blest," which comes to worn-out sufferers, and to those who are doomed to undergo some fearful operation of surgery, as a breath of Paradise—this perfume pervaded the atmosphere around him. Opening his eyes to learn the cause of this unusual state of affairs, he beheld a tall form bending over him and holding near his face something from which the fragrant drops still continued to fall. It was a sponge filled with chloroform, and fortunately for Adam, the "drop too much" defeated the purpose of his insidious enemy. Keck, though hitherto in blissful ignorance of the smell of chloroform, at once spontaneously knew," (as he stated while testifying before the court,) "that it was something calculated to mollify him." The actual operation of the narcotic, however, was the reverse of mollifying. Springing to his feet Adam closed in with his unknown adversary, and a desperate and silent struggle ensued. In a few moments, Jackson, (the "great unknown") finding Adam likely to overpower him, drew a revolver, crying out, "I will shoot if you don't let go of me." "Shoot away and be d—d," replied Keck, providing against the execution of the first part of his order, however, by inclosing in the powerful grasp of his left hand both the pistol and the right hand of Jackson. Having thus disabled his adversary's artillery, Keck at once resorted to the ancient and honorable weapon which was made before knives or revolvers. "With my right fist," said he, in describing this desperate conflict to the court, "I punched him in the face according to the best of my ability," which the jury evidently thought was not far behind that of the most renowned champion of the "Ring," as he displayed to their admiring gaze a "bunch of fives" well calculated to place his adversary at sixes and sevens.

Jackson, overcome by this surfeit of punches, became "groggy," and finally fell to the floor, the persevering Keck falling upon him, and continuing to "punch" him with unabated vigor. "For God's sake don't kill me!" groined the prostrate villain. "How about your nostrils, now?" asked Keck, discontinuing his blows. As Jackson made no reply to this unanswerable question, and showed few signs of life, Keck thought it safe to leave him for a moment in order to give the engineer the signal to stop

the train, but no sooner had he turned his back than the defeated desperado jumped to his feet, flew to one of the side-doors, pushed it open, and took a fearful leap in the dark; the cars at the time running at the rate of at least twenty miles an hour! The train was stopped and run back, and search made for the fugitive, but without success. It was found that had his leap been made at any other point than the one where it actually was taken, he must inevitably have been killed outright.

On an examination of the mail car, conclusive evidence was found that the daring adventurer had secreted himself in a small closet in the car on leaving Jersey City, more than a hundred miles from the point at which he made the attempt of which we have spoken. His plan undoubtedly was to stupefy the agent, and then to throw out to an accomplice as many mail bags as it would be safe to dispose of. Upon the floor of the car were found the pistol, a "six-shooter," all the barrels loaded to the muzzle; the sponge before mentioned; a broken vial which had contained the chloroform; (the fumes of which still filled the car,) and an ugly-looking weapon in the shape of a "slung-shot," the latter article lying on a box near the place where the agent had been sleeping. It would seem from this last item that Adam might have fared worse than his noble progenitor of the same name, since he, Adam junior, was likely to have received a broken rib on waking from his sleep, rather than such an improved specimen as the original Adam was favored with.

An overcoat, in the pocket of which was a half-filled, (or rather half-emptied,) bottle of brandy—a more agreeable material for punches than the Titanic fist of Keck—was subsequently identified as the property of the discomfited Jackson.

At an early hour on the following morning, the telegraph, that terror to evil-doers, was called into requisition, and the best description of the fugitive which could be given was sent to the most important stations on the line of the railroad. For once at least he was made "a man of mark." Keck, when describing him, was asked if he could tell the color of his eyes. "Black and blue, both of them," was the facetious reply.

One of the stations to which the news of the occurrence had been sent, was Otisville, N. Y. In the course of the forenoon, after the happening of these events, a tall, well-dressed individual applied at the ticket office for a New York ticket. He wore a glazed cap, apparently new, and had a handkerchief tied about his head, entirely covering one of his eyes, while the other seemed to stand sorely in need of a similar protection. From these appearances and the answers made to sundry questions, the ticket-master soon became satisfied that the wished-for individual was before him. He however communicated his opinion to no one but the conductor of the train bound for New York, to whom he pointed out the person in question. A close watch was kept upon him in the belief that if he was the man sought, he would attempt to leave the train before it reached New-York, which of itself would be a suspicious circumstance, as he had purchased a "through ticket." This anticipation proved to be correct, for when the conductor announced "All out for Patterson," our black-eyed passenger hastily left his seat and made for the door. "Go back, sir," said the conductor, confronting him in the "broad aisle" of the car, "your ticket is for New York." The determined air of the conductor had the desired effect upon the disgraced villain, and he slunk back to his seat muttering "curses not loud but deep," on Professor Morse and his invention, no doubt conscious that all was over with him, and desirous of avoiding any unnecessary publicity. The uses of the telegraph, however, were not yet exhausted. A message was sent along the wires to New York, requesting the presence of the United States Marshal or one of his deputies at Jersey City on the arrival of the train. The summons was promptly obeyed, and Mr. Jackson was soon in the custody of the Marshal, charged with attempting to rob the U. S. Mail.

The penalty provided by Congress for this offence is imprisonment for not less than two, nor more than ten years.

The charge was clearly proved, and the court sentenced Jackson to five years' hard labor in the Penitentiary.

Our friend Adam "lives," cherishing a decided antipathy to chloroform and those who, like his late antagonist, are fond of trying experiments on Route Agents with this substance. Let such enterprising gentlemen beware of Keck

A Scaly "Falow;" or, A Woolly Uncle.

We give the following unique specimen of letter-writing as an curiosity in its way. The orthography is hardly good enough for the sentiments it contains. It appears from internal evidence to be the production of an uncle, or perhaps the father of the young reprobate whose misdeeds (stealing ninety cents from the post-office) forms the burden of the discourse. The course of discipline recommended seems rather more severe than a "parent" would be likely to advise:

"New York Aug. 27 '60.

Dear Brother I received your letter and was sorry to hare that William was in such a bad fix but you can please yourself about bating him ought perhaps if you doe wen you want him he may be some waw waw you woud not know waw lo and him and that woud cause you a great deal of trouble I think it woud be better if you could fix it with the prosecutor so he woud not Apare against him I do not see the reason that he want to carry on in that way a smart falow like him mite have plenty of fun and pleasure with out taking other peoples property and geting himself in to Limboe and disgracing himself in that manner and ever body that belong to him you can get that guk back agin ant take charge of that trunk and every thing that is in it and if you get him out take your hickory good and give him a thundring good licking and you can tell him that I woud not pay five dollars for him if it woud save his neck from the hemp that woud be encoring him in his badness outhink of the meeness of the thing of a young man stealing of ninety sent if I woud be a nuff for a child to do that I am sure if I was to let his mother know waw a meen falow he was she woud be almost killed with out taking other peoples so wawk from the Disc: y: that falow have been brougt up in a bap: church and teach: and have giving him the best of advise I think the boy have lost his senses or else he woud not be here in that way you can do the best you can with him but do not let him know that I will doe anything any way you might let me know how the thing goes and tell the stor keeper if he let them of I will make every thing rite with him and put all in his way that I can I should have thought that boy woud have ben as hapey as a king up their without stealing any bodies things I have sent him money since he have ben there yours truly

T Ring

Direct T Ring care of William Sabn so his mother do not know it"

The luckless William is placed between Scylla and Charybdis, requiring a pilot of several Palinurus power to steer him safely through the perils which environ him. He is in "Limboe," with small prospect—to continue the nautical figure—of being "haled out," and should this be effected, "a thundering good licking" is in reserve, ready to be applied through the instrumentality of a "hickory good."

We have little sympathy with William. "A young man stealing of 'ninety sent's" is a melancholy spectacle.

We think, with Mr. "T. Ring," that "the boy have lost his proper senses." Such a contemptible offence is worthy of hickory goods, limboes, and whatever else is fearful to the juvenile imagination. The man who steals ten thousand dollars may be somebody, but what can be expected of a "ninety-cent" thief? "A smart falow!" You must be mistaken friend Ring.

Murphy and the Box Clerk.

"Is there a luther for James Murphy," asked a stalwart son of the Emerald Isle, of one of the box clerks at the New York Post Office.

"Go to the General delivery," was the response of the aforesaid clerk.

"General delivery is it," says Murphy. "And what the devil has your military ginty got to do wid my luther is what I want to know? Sure you feel mighty crank since you've got a General for a Post-master. When 'Ike' was the Boss, he had you didn't think of trating one of the Tammany boys in this way. Ah! he was the boy for me!"

The waiting applicants behind Murphy, had enjoyed the fun mightily, but could be detained no longer, and James was somewhat unceremoniously pushed aside, to the great relief of the object of his wrath, which was wonderfully cooled down by a subsequent explanation from the Secretary, as to the true import of the term "General delivery."

"WHAT'S IN A NAME."—Perhaps the following addresses, found upon two letters passing through the New York and Boston Post Offices respectively, may answer this question. John Ollenbaugrapostmeisterhobenbicher, 203, 34 Avenue.

N. Y. City. George Frederick Augustus Baron Von Speckelburg Wisker Armus Ehrasher. Bangor, Me.

Official Insolence.

Nothing is more annoying or calculated to give greater offence, than insolent words or actions on the part of a servant of the public, whether employed in the Post office or any other branch of the government. And there are no circumstances which will justify their exhibition in any shape. And yet public censure is too frequently brought upon the Post Office Department in this way for the want of proper courtesy and respectful treatment on the part of Postmasters and Clerks, we will venture the assurance that if there is any "unpardonable sin" in the estimation of the Head of our Department, it is official insolence. It is deemed a sufficient cause for the prompt removal of the offending party whenever the charge is clearly established.

For the comfort of those who sometimes suffer in this way for the want of proper courtesy and respectful treatment on the part of Postmasters and Clerks, we will venture the assurance that if there is any "unpardonable sin" in the estimation of the Head of our Department, it is official insolence. It is deemed a sufficient cause for the prompt removal of the offending party whenever the charge is clearly established.

Of this insulting description are some of the informal messages introduced on the margin of the printed circulars used to notify newspaper publishers that their papers sent to certain addresses are not taken out of the Post office. We give the following as specimens:—

"Post Office, H— N. J. }

Aug. 1, 1860.

TO THE PUBLISHER OF THE NEW YORK T— SIR.—Agreeable to the order of the Postmaster General, you are hereby informed that your paper addressed to A. Murphy, is not taken out of this office.

Yours, respectfully,

J. W— P. M. Per H. B. S.

P. S.—Stop it at once Mr. Editor, and no more humbug about it."

Attached to a similar notice addressed to the same paper on the 5th of Sept., and signed by the same initials, is the following:—

"Don't want the dam—d old paper"—I wish you woud stop that paper of yours, there 'aint such a name in it—, and the papers are burned every three months, and you will greatly oblige if you will stop the dam—d old thing at once.

This conduct coming to the knowledge of the Postmaster General, he at once ordered an investigation, and its author and the uncalled for paper which so much annoyed him, were "stopped" about the same time.

Extracts.

The following passages are found scattered through the pages of "Ten Years Among the Mail Bags":

"A long course of upright conduct may and ought to obliterate the memory of former crime, but the commission of such crimes, ordinarily raises additional barriers in the way of a virtuous life; and too often it were as hopeful a task to collect the fragments of a diamond which has just been dashed upon the pavement, and attempt to reconstruct it in its original beauty, as to gather up the remains of a ruined character and endeavor to restore it to its former lustre."

"The Mail Bag is as great a leveler as the grave, and it is only by the superscription in either case that one occupant can be distinguished from the other."

"A well-ordered epistle, like a highly bred man, does not show on its face the emotions it may contain."

"Silence is as great a privilege as speech, and it is as important that every one should be able to maintain it whenever he pleases, as that he should be at liberty to utter his thoughts without restraint. The post-office undertakes to maintain this principle with regard to written communications as they are conveyed from one person to another through the mails."

"The law considers no abuse of the trust reposed in those connected with the post-office, as slight; but with a jealous regard for the good of community, provides penalties commensurate with the greatness of their crimes, for those whom neither common honesty, nor honorable feelings, nor moral principle can withhold from the commission of such deeds."

"Let the guilty one envelop himself in a seemingly impenetrable cloud of secrecy; let him contract ever so cunningly the line of his defenses, sparing no pains to fortify every exposed point, and to guard against every surprise; yet some ray of light, darting like the electric flash, he knows not whence will pierce the darkness which surrounded him; some hidden spark will kindle an explosion which will bury him and his works in ruin."

"Aft if crime presented the same aspect before its perpetration that it does afterward, how vast would be the diminution of human guilt!"

"The most gifted and socially attractive are always peculiarly exposed to temptation and danger, and nothing short of firmly established principles can be relied on for safety."

"No man can know to its full extent the value of a good character until he has been through some 'fery trial,' in which nothing but such a power could have saved him from ruin."

Mexican Postal System.

When the Spaniards first landed in Mexico, they found a postal system of great perfection established in that country, which was mainly used by the government. The same was found in greater perfection in Peru, as appears by the following passages from the charming narrative of Prescott:—

"The system of communication through their dominions, was still further improved by the Peruvian sovereignty by the introduction of posts, in the same manner as was done by the Aztecs. The Peruvian posts, however, established on all the great routes that conducted to the capital, were on a much more extended plan than those in Mexico. All along these routes small buildings were erected at the distance of less than five miles asunder, in each of which a number of runners, or "chasques," as they were called, were stationed to carry forward the despatches of government. * * * The chasques were dressed in a peculiar livery, intimating their profession. They were all trained to their employment, and selected for their speed and fidelity. As the distance each carrier had to perform was small, and as he had ample time to refresh himself at the stations, they ran over the ground with great swiftness, and messages were carried through the whole extent of the long routes at the rate of one hundred and fifty miles a day. The office of the chasques was not limited to carrying despatches. They frequently brought various articles for the use of the court, and in this way fish, from a distant ocean, fruits, game, and the different commodities from the hot regions of the coast, were taken to the capital in good condition, and served fresh at the royal table. * * * It is remarkable that this important institution should have been known to both the Mexicans and the Peruvians without any correspondence with one another; and that it should have been found among two barbarian nations of the new world long before it was introduced among the civilized nations of Europe."

By these wise contrivances of the Incas, the distant parts of the long extended empire of Peru were brought into intimate relations with each other. And while the capitals of Christendom, but a few hundred miles apart, remained as far asunder as if seas had rolled between them, the great capitals, Cuzco and Quito, were placed by the high roads of the Incas in immediate correspondence."

"If we may trust Montesinos, the royal table was served with fish taken a hundred leagues from the capital, twenty-five hours after it was drawn from the water."

"The institution of the Peruvian posts seems to have made a great impression on the minds of the Spaniards who first visited the country, and ample notices of it may be found in their writings. The establishment of posts is of old date among the Chinese, and, probably, still older among the Peruvians. It is singular that the same mode of the uses of a despotic government, should have received its full application only under a free one. For in it we have the germ of that beautiful system of intercommunication which binds the nations of Christendom together as one vast commonwealth."

The Oldest Postmaster.

The oldest Postmaster in the United States, who has never been out of office since the date of his appointment is JONAS BILLINGS, at Trenton, Onondaga County, N. Y. His appointment was made on the 19th June, 1805.

The first Route Agent in the United States, was JOHN E. KENDALL, Esq., appointed early in 1838, on the route from Washington, D. C. to Philadelphia, Penn. The first mail messengers, were appointed on the recommendation of the above Agent, on 26th March, 1838.

To the State of Connecticut this letter must go! To the Post Office at Colebrook, Litchfield Co. you know, And when it gets there it is easy to say, That Samuel G. Smith will take it away.

The following was recently written on a decoy letter sent to test the honesty of a young P. O. clerk, and returned by him to the Agent.

To the wise Special Agent, Who sent this decoy, I'll return it and say, You suspect the wrong boy!

To the care of Mr. Patrick Slattery, No. 132 East Street, New Haven, State of Connecticut, To be forwarded to Daniel Meunsey for Timothy Quaid.

"A few drops of water seem of little importance. They may sparkle as dew, they may form a rainbow; but when united to others they rush onward as a mighty torrent, sweeping everything before them, we may see how pleasing and often apparently trifling are the beginnings of evil, and how irresistible are its downward tendencies to those who put themselves within its power."—Mail Bags.

"The devil never boldly enters the citadel of rectitude at the outset. He first walks around and passes by; then holds a parley, and 'makes the worse appear the better reason;' and ends by gaining permission to walk in just once, promising thenceforward to cease his solicitations and keep aloof. But once admitted, he goes artfully to work to destroy all our defenses, and before we are aware of it, he is a permanent occupant of the castle."—Ibid.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 1860.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York. Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Special Notice.

This number of the "UNITED STATES MAIL," will be sent to all Postmasters throughout the United States, under the Frank of the Post Office Department, and by the authority and direction of the Postmaster General, by whom special attention is required to the Postage Tables, (which are to supersede all others heretofore in use,) as well as to various other matter designed for official use and instruction.

Postmasters will please send in their orders for a continuance, if the paper pleases them, together with such other names as they may obtain. An extra copy to be placed on file in the office, should be ordered, as, aside from its convenience for reference, it would no doubt be readily purchased by any successor in office, at double its cost. It is hoped also that our paper will be found sufficiently interesting and instructive to Route Agents, mail contractors, Assistant Postmasters and post office Clerks, to induce them to order copies for their own use and preservation.

We count much on the aid and influence of our brother officials for the success of our undertaking, both in the way of swelling our subscription list, and in sending us material for our columns.

Our Enterprise.

The basis of social life is the interchange of thought; and whatever concerns its free and ready transmission is of vital importance to the well being of the nation as well as the individual. We have inherited the privilege of free speech, but have reached only by a gradual process that degree of perfection in the transmission of intelligence which is secured by our present Postal System. There is no inhabitant of this country, however obscure and humble he may be, to whose little affairs the prompt and safe transmission of the mails may not be a matter of the utmost consequence. And the more numerous one's relations to society, either in the way of commerce, politics, professional occupation, or any other line of pursuit, the more completely is he dependent on the Post Office. The information necessary to the prosecution of his business, which he obtains by correspondence, the financial transactions which he carries on through the same medium, as well as the friendly intercourse which he maintains with absent friends; these things, and others such as the diffusion of knowledge by newspapers, depend chiefly on the agency of a well conducted Postal System.

This institution is on a scale corresponding with the results required of it. There are now in this country nearly 29,000 post offices, and allowing an average of two assistants to each, the post office force alone is about 58,000. Add to this 5,000 mail contractors, 500 Route Agents or traveling postmasters, 1,600 mail messengers—and the agents of contractors, such as railroad, baggage and depot masters, night-watchmen, etc., all of whom are supposed to have a legal right to handle the mails, and we find the enormous aggregate of about 100,000 persons, to whose fidelity are constantly intrusted the vast commercial and domestic interests involved in the Postal system of this great and prosperous republic.

Considering the necessary complexity of this system, the varying details of the mail-service, the occasional legislation requiring a corresponding adjustment of the machinery; the arrangement of mail routes so as best to serve the interests of the public; and in the Foreign Department, the frequently changing forms, and rates of postage resulting from new treaties, etc., it would seem very desirable that some direct and convenient medium of communication between the Department and its immense army of subordinates, should exist.

The ordinary means, (other than the permanent laws and regulations,) hitherto relied upon by the Department for promulgating its directions, orders, decisions, and additional legislation, etc., has been the issue of circulars and written communications,—a process so expensive and laborious that it cannot well be applied to the minor details of the service, which from its nature must be somewhat changeable.

Such a periodical would also meet a want on the part of the mercantile community, and indeed of all classes, for that detailed, timely, and reliable postal intelligence, which is so essential to the smooth and successful working of their own postal affairs, as well as to that of the internal economy of the Department. In fact one of the principal causes of embarrassment in the administration of the Department, has heretofore been the limited knowledge possessed by the commercial public respecting the legal enactments for the regulation of postal concerns, and the established rules and customs by which the Department is governed.

Influenced by reasons suggested by such considerations as these, and believing that a journal like that which we have described, can, if conducted with industry and discretion, be of incalculable advantage to the public and to the Post Office Department, we have decided to undertake an enterprise of which this sheet is the pioneer, having held due consultation with gentlemen prominently connected with the Department both at Washington and elsewhere, as well as with many public journalists and business men in whose practical judgment we feel the utmost confidence.

It will be our aim to make this paper not only useful to business men and post office employees, but interesting and instructive to all classes of community. It will be exclusively

devoted to postal affairs, not overlooking the many remarkable facts and incidents in which post office experience is so fruitful. In short we shall be much disappointed if we do not succeed in making the "UNITED STATES MAIL" an indispensable auxiliary to the important branch of the public service to which it will be devoted.

To the Press.

We do not enter upon our voyage as an entirely green hand. We have handled the ropes and smelt salt water before, and although we look with respect on the ancient mariners who have long and successfully navigated the stormy seas of journalism, we are emboldened by our own experience of the pleasures and perplexities of an editor's life, to claim admission into the fraternity as one whose interest in them and their pursuits is not a thing of yesterday. We therefore count largely on the aid of the newspaper press in giving us a favorable introduction to the public. We have ever believed in the principle of *quid pro quo* in its broadest application, being persuaded that the most certain and direct way of securing a favor is to convince the person of whom it is solicited that it will be returned with interest. This is precisely what we expect to do with our friends of the press.

What class of citizens is more largely interested in the correct and careful management of the mails than they? The circulation of their publications is to a great extent dependent on the mails, and their financial operations are largely carried on through the same medium. To illustrate this it is sufficient to mention the fact that the aggregate remittances received through the mails yearly by the proprietors of the New York dailies, weeklies, and monthlies, amounts to upwards of five millions of dollars, as near as can be ascertained from data furnished by the proprietors themselves, in response to inquiries made on this subject.

This sum represents approximately the pecuniary interest of the New York Press alone in the efficient working of our Postal system. Add to this the immense number of remittances which are every day passing through the mails to the almost innumerable newspaper establishments both of city and country, and we shall have some adequate idea of the important duties which rest upon the employees of the post office Department, considering the subject in its financial aspect alone.

It is our wish and design to do whatever is in our power for the improvement of the mail service, and that we may be the better enabled to accomplish this end, we request the co-operation of our editorial friends in the way of exchange. It is important, in our estimation, that we should know the opinions of others, with regard to the various matters which concern our speciality, and we expect to derive much aid in this way as well as in others, from our confidants of the press, believing that their suggestions and views will be of essential service to us in the prosecution of our undertaking.

We intend to supply, among other things, a kind of information often needed, both by editors and readers, but not easily obtained hitherto, namely, general information respecting the regulations, decisions, etc., of the Department, which are made from time to time, thus furnishing a trust-worthy source of reference on these subjects.

We hope that our views as here given, will meet with the approbation of the editorial corps. And we think it is in our power,—it certainly is our desire, to make them our debtors by the end of the year.

Bank Letters.

We suppose that Bank Cashiers approach as near to infallibility as it is possible for ordinary human natures to attain. They themselves practically uphold this theory, and the public receives it as a truth as little to be questioned as the revolution of the earth upon its axis. The importance to them and to those with whom they have business relations, of accuracy in the transactions of letters, is sufficiently obvious. And in no department of their affairs should we look for greater precision than in their correspondence, involving as it does such vast pecuniary interests.

Yet our belief in the infallibility of our banking friends is, we confess, slightly shaken in view of the fact that over one thousand letters a year arrive at the New York post office, plainly addressed "New York," which belong to cashiers in other cities and towns, as is ascertained by consulting a list of cashiers in the United States, kept in the office for reference, and to enable the clerks to forward these stray missives to their proper destination. And a similar state of things exists in other large cities.

Considering all this, we are sure that those who have suffered serious inconvenience from the delay or non-receipt of Bank letters will "let up" Uncle Sam a little, and remove some of the burden of other people's delinquencies from the shoulders of their venerable relative. Should this meet the eye of any of our Banking friends, we hope it will have the effect of making them more careful themselves, and less ready to denounce the post office when their letters are lost or delayed.

Inquiries.

As an important means of calling out reliable information as to the recognized practices, rules and regulations which govern the various branches of the administration of the mail service, we would encourage and solicit inquiries from any source, addressed to the Publisher of this paper. All such inquiries, however, should be confined strictly to postal matters of practical import, as none other will receive attention.

Our replies shall always be reliable, as we intend to submit such points as are not already settled, to the Postmaster General or his Assistants.

Stamp and Quarterly Accounts.

A recent order of the Postmaster General, requires a personal inspection of the post offices by the special agents, with a view to ascertain and report the amount of stamps and monies actually on hand, and whether or not the "General Accounts" of postmasters are kept according to the requirements of the Department.

The Street and Number.

One of the most singular trials for mail robbery within our recollection, was that of James S. Williams, which recently took place before the U. S. Court in this city, the details of which were at the time given to the public. It was somewhat familiarly known as the "double identity case," and the "Norwalk Bank Case," &c. Notwithstanding so much was said and published on the subject, there were some points in the case which were not necessarily made conspicuous, an allusion to which may be of advantage to parties corresponding through the mails, and especially to those who are in the habit of making valuable remittances.

The whole trouble, involving the loss of \$3,000 to the Norwalk Bank, under the decision of the U. S. Circuit Court,* before which tribunal a suit was recently brought by the Bank, against Adams Express Company, for the recovery of that amount—the arrest and imprisonment of an innocent party—the just sentence of the guilty one to eight years' imprisonment on hard labor, and the great expense involved in the criminal suit and in the civil action already alluded to, can be traced directly to the failure on the part of the writer of the letter to add the street and number to its address!

Lest some of our readers may not have noticed the report of this trial, we will give its main features. A gentleman of New York wished to get a note discounted at the Norwalk, Conn., Bank. He drew the note payable three months from date, for the sum of \$3,000,—placed it in a letter and deposited it in the New York Post office. The letter and note were received at the bank in due course of mail. The cashier, however, returned the note to the drawer, offering to "do it" if he would make it payable in two months instead of three, directing his letter to "F. A. Williams, Esq., New York." In justice to the Cashier, however, it must be stated that on the trial he testified that he kept the letter over one mail, hoping to find among previous correspondence, information of the street and number of Mr. W.'s place of business. But failing to discover this he sent the letter off as first prepared. Had the full address been given the letter would have been promptly delivered to the rightful owner by the penny post. Mr. Williams having no box at the post office. As it was, however, the letter remained in the post office a week and was advertised. One James S. Williams, as was proved on the trial, calling for and obtaining it—nearly altered the word "Three" to "Two," so that it read Two months after date instead of Three, and went to the office of Adams & Co's Express, and employed that firm to take the note to Norwalk and bring back the proceeds. The Bank, receiving the note through a responsible channel, and supposing a new note had been executed, in accordance with the request made by the Cashier, at once and without the slightest suspicion, counted out the \$3,000, (minus the discount,) in small bills for "Western circulation," and sent it by the same Express, addressing the package to F. A. Williams, Esq., New York. Our bold operator was on hand at the express office soon after the package arrived, and coolly went in the name of F. A. Williams, and coolly went his way.

Strange to say the report in the papers of the arrest of a party as the author of this crime, whose entire innocence was subsequently shown, led to the discovery, arrest and conviction of the right man; the leading circumstances which brought him to light being a movement on the part of his wife, who was not, however, living with him at the time. Taking up one of the daily newspapers, she observed the arrest of one Williams for fraudulently obtaining a letter from the post office, and securing thereby the sum of \$3,000.

Her husband had previously written to her, saying he had been lucky enough to draw about 3,000 in a Lottery, and offering to supply her with \$500 to purchase furniture, etc., if she would consent to live with him again. This, together with the fact that he had often spoken of calling at the post office for letters not belonging to him, satisfied her as to whose handi-work this job might have been. As soon therefore as she had read the account of the affair, with a woman's instinct, she said to a friend sitting by, "That is Jim, they've got the wrong man, and I'll go and charge Jim with it, and expose him too, rather than have an innocent man suffer for his rascality." She was soon at the boarding-house of her husband in Twelfth street, and it was mainly the conversation between them, overheard by a third party, which eventually led to the discharge of the innocent and the conviction of the really guilty party.

This is only one of the many cases where similar serious and costly results have followed such acts of carelessness or slight omissions,—to use no stronger term on the part of correspondents.

We trust the mention of the above example will not be lost sight of by bank officers, or any others who may have occasion to send letters either with or without valuable remittances.

* This case came before the Circuit Court at Hartford, Ct., on the 18th ult. Judges Nelson and Shipman on the bench. The leading point made by the plaintiff, was, that having paid the Express Company their charge for conveying the money package to New York, they were in duty bound to deliver it to the right owner for whom it was intended and to whom addressed.

The defence took the ground that when the Express agents delivered the money to the person who brought them the note to be taken to Norwalk for discount, they performed their whole duty.

After the testimony in the case had been laid before the Jury by both sides, Judge Nelson remarked that as the case would turn entirely upon questions of law, he would dispose with the summing up of counsel. He then pronounced the opinion of the Court, which was, that the Express Company could not be held responsible either for the genuineness of paper sent through their hands for collection or discount, or for the delivery of money to a party claiming to be the owner of the paper so sent provided he was the same party who had employed them in the first instance.

A LUCKY OFFICE.—During the five years that the Registry system has been in operation, there have been sent from and received at the Hartford, (Conn.) post office, seven thousand registered letters. Out of this large number only six have failed to reach their proper owner.

Newspapers.

Notwithstanding ample regulations provided by Congress for the management of the newspaper mails, and the utmost vigilance on the part of the Department and its officers for the enforcement of these regulations, it cannot be denied that postmasters and their clerks attach too little importance to this description of mail matter, and consequently fail to exercise with regard to it that care which they bestow upon written communications. It is to be feared that they often underrate the value to newspaper readers of the prompt and regular receipt of their daily or weekly journals.

It should be remembered that many of those who live in country towns, especially in more remote parts, having but little correspondence through the mails, and little personal intercourse with those who are better informed than themselves with regard to the current events of the day and other matters of interest, depend almost entirely upon their newspaper for a knowledge of what is going on in the world beyond their sphere of observation. To such persons the failure of their paper is a matter of no small importance, involving as it does the stopping of their regular supply of general intelligence. Further than this, it sometimes happens that a more serious evil results from the cause named. We might mention instances of farmers who were in the habit of consulting the columns of their newspaper for information respecting the state of the markets, by which they were guided in disposing of the produce of their farms, and who in consequence of failing to receive a single number of their journal, containing the announcement of a sudden rise in a certain article, have been induced by shrewd speculators to part with their stock of the article in question at a price far below the market value, and thus have suffered considerable pecuniary loss, to say nothing of the consequent vexation.

There is another view of the subject, which commends itself to the consideration of all who are connected with the post office. The disappointment and vexation arising from the non-arrival of expected intelligence whether written or printed is "a sore evil under the sun." If a man fails to receive his paper, he first expends his objections on some branch of the mail service. He feels like one who is suddenly deprived of a good dinner which he felt sure of,—like Saucio Panza, when the inexorable wand of the physician spirited away every desirable dish as soon as he attempted to taste it.

No small proportion of the grumbling and dissatisfaction with the post office which may exist, whether with reason or not, is due to failures or irregularities in the delivery of printed matter, and we call upon our friends the postmasters and post office employees, to remedy this evil so far as it is in their power. We would direct their attention to a single circumstance which is often productive of much irregularity and delay in the delivery of newspapers, even more than of other mail matter.

In examining the addresses of newspapers, the name of the State is frequently read incorrectly, and consequently a paper may go to one end of the Union when it was intended for the other, or like the Wandering Jew, travel about with no end to its peripatations. There are so many towns of the same name in different States, that the inadvertence mentioned is one of no little consequence, especially as a misdirected paper is not likely to be forwarded to the place of destination, since it is considered to be of so much less importance than a letter.

In calling the attention of our post office friends to the evil of which we have spoken, we are not unmindful of the fact that they are not to be censured for all the delinquencies of this kind that may occur. The fault often rests with publishers and those who are in their employ. Papers are sometimes directed so illegibly that it is beyond the skill even of a post-office clerk to decipher their superscription, and if they arrive at the place which they were intended to reach, the phenomenon must be ascribed to some wonderful combination of chances.

A publisher in Philadelphia recently sent a quantity of papers to the post office directed in a hand which defied all the efforts of the clerks to unravel the mysteries with respect to a portion of them, and many of the packages had no address at all. It was found necessary to send half a hushel of them back to the publisher for "better direction."

As we have remarked, one who fails to receive his paper, first blames the post office, but a little knowledge on the subject will show that those who are connected with this institution form but a part of the chain of communication between the press and the reader.

Let all whether publishers or employees of the post-office, who are concerned in the important task of diffusing intelligence, discharge their duties with fidelity and care, and reasonable grumblings will soon cease.

Stray Letters.

As another proof of the want of uniform care on the part of business correspondents, we may mention the fact, that not far from one hundred letters per week, addressed to firms in other cities and towns, are received at the New York Post Office, having been misdirected to this city.

No pains are spared in this office to counteract the difficulty, by forwarding to their proper destination as many of these stray letters as possible.

Fortunately, for careless correspondents there are in the New York Post Office, some (we will not say old, as that term might be rather offensive) very experienced officials—"men of letters," who have been there many years, and who are about as familiar with the names of firms in other cities as the local Postmasters themselves—and who, by the aid also of a Library of Directories of different cities are enabled to save a large proportion of the class of letters referred to from the mortifying process of passing through the Dead Letter office. Other offices may not be so fortunate. At any rate it is always the best and safest way to give the address of a letter correctly in the first place.

Our Postage Tables.

The table of foreign postages, which will be found on our last page, has been carefully prepared, and is in all respects reliable. It will be revised and corrected monthly, according to the postal regulations at home and abroad, as indicated by the Foreign Bureau at Washington.

In view of the complicated nature of the foreign postages, as at present arranged, and the want of accessible information on this important subject, we calculate that this feature alone of our paper, will prove worth its entire cost.

It should be specially borne in mind that when the postages on foreign letters is not fully prepaid, they are either sent to Washington to be at once opened and returned to the writer, or if arriving at New York or Boston, from other offices, they are sent back to the mailing office for additional postage, thus causing delay, (often losing a steamer,) and no doubt, in many cases, heavy pecuniary loss and disappointment. The large number of these letters sent to the Department constantly, shows something of the lack of the proper intelligence among business correspondents on this point.

In respect to some classes of letters, for instance, those mailed in California to go out by steamer from New York, if only partially prepaid, they must be returned to the California offices, for the lacking postage stamps.

Registered Letters.

In registering letters Postmasters should follow strictly the regulations of the Department. By so doing a large proportion of the inconvenience and delay caused by mistakes, would be diminished.

Every day there is received at the New York Post Office letters upon which there is scarcely a doubt that the fee has been paid for registering, but which are either unaccompanied by a bill or unnumbered, and frequently not postmarked; or if the bill does come with them it is often headed simply "Smithtown," or whatever it may be, without any State, date, fee, or postage entered upon it. Sometimes only one of these will be omitted, but very often the whole.

In cases of this kind, where the bill is signed by an assistant or clerk, it is impossible to determine—where there is more than one office of the same name—which one the letter is from; consequently the return bill cannot be sent, and in the course of a few days the postmaster writes to know why it is not forthcoming.

Letters have also been received at New York enclosed in an envelope to the postmaster without any mark whatever upon them, and unaccompanied by any bill, which are undoubtedly registered, but which cannot be treated as such on account of these omissions, and are of course delivered to the parties addressed as unregistered letters, thus defeating the very object of the Registry system.

Again, a great many postmasters do not seem to be aware that it is necessary to fully prepay registered letters, especially those for foreign countries, which if not sufficiently prepaid must be returned for the balance of postage, often causing a great deal of confusion and annoyance as well to the writer as to the postmaster.

Postmasters also frequently send return bills to the New York office without any signature affixed, and omit to mark them "correct," although the heading of the bill gives them full directions how to proceed upon its reception at the office of destination.

It does not seem to be generally understood that registered letters should be mailed to the same "distributing" offices as ordinary unregistered letters, but they are often sent "direct" sometimes thousands of miles, which is decidedly contrary to the regulations of the Department, and should not be practiced. See Chapter 33, Post Office Regulations.

MAIL IMPROVEMENTS.—The Postmaster General, desirous of extending and improving the mail facilities of the country, to the extent of the means furnished him by Congress, is engaged in trying to effect an arrangement with the Railroad Companies between New York and Boston, by which the great Southern mails shall continue on East, as soon as they arrive in New York, instead of remaining in the latter city until the following day, as at present.

The plan in contemplation, is to start a mail train from New York at 8 o'clock P. M., or directly after the arrival of the Southern mail by the Amboy route, arriving in Boston say at 4 or 5 o'clock the following morning.

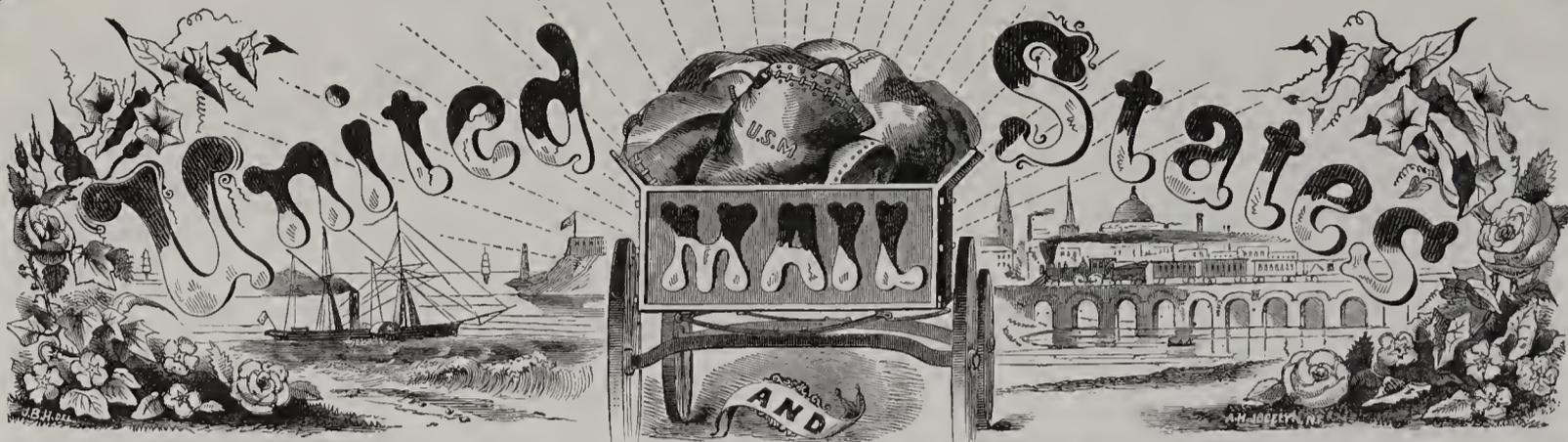
The great advantages of such an arrangement, will be readily comprehended by the business men of the two great cities directly interested. Correspondents here will have at least two hours more in which to prepare their Eastern letters, and the Boston merchants will, for all business purposes, get their Southern letters twenty-four hours earlier than at present. Other Eastern cities, are also largely interested in the proposed improvement.

Since the thing has been started, we do not see how it can be abandoned,—and if it is, we are satisfied that the Postmaster General will see to it that the fault shall not rest with the Post Office Department.

AN ARTIST IN THE POST OFFICE.—The design from which the head of our paper was engraved, was originated and drawn by a clerk in the New York Post Office, who has had but little experience, and no instruction in that art.

When asked by a fellow-clerk engaged in examining the design, why he did not give up his clerkship and attend to drawing, altogether, our "special artist" replied, "From the simple fact that I have a greater talent for drawing my salary."

NOT "OFFICIALLY DRUNK."—A postmaster on being notified of a charge of intemperance, replied "acknowledging the corn," but insisted that he was not "officially drunk." His friends appearing to take a great interest in him and it being shown that his office was well conducted, the Department consented to overlook this first offense in the hope of permanent reformation; but with a pointed intimation, however, that a repetition of it would certainly cause his removal.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1860.

No. 2.

"Tuckerman and the Dead Head."

Our readers probably have not forgotten the person whose name heads this article. The bold and extensive robberies committed by him, the singular method which he adopted to carry out his nefarious plans, and many of the circumstances attending his arrest and conviction, have been made familiar to the public through the newspapers. Like the elephant, he never travelled without his trunk—that mighty appendage to whose rapacious grasp many a mail-bag fell a victim. Regarded by the seditions of cigars of unimpeachable excellence, the baggage-men were wont to allow his presence in the baggage and mail-car, and during their temporary absence, he seized both the opportunity and the bags. All this, and much more is no doubt fresh in the recollection of everybody. But there were some incidents connected with this extraordinary case which have escaped the vigilance of newspaper-reporters. Here is one of them.

Most of Tuckerman's robberies, as is well known, were committed on the mail-trains between New York and Boston. At least thirteen whole mail-bags were abstracted, and all of their contents destroyed which were valueless to him. Five thousand dollars worth of postage stamps, however, were recovered and restored to Government. His mode of conducting operations was such as to require for his detection the constant surveillance of an officer, to make the journey with him, and to observe all his movements.

On the fatal Sunday night of his arrest, the post office Agent, sometime before the starting of the train, ensconced himself in a small closet, occasionally used as a "clothes-press," at the end of the baggage-car nearest the engine. A crack in the partition afforded such facilities for observation as were required by a gentleman for the time closely connected with the press, since from this loophole he could command a view of every part of the car. This view, for the present, was decidedly tame and uninteresting. There was a want of what painters call "breadth" in the prospect, to say nothing of length. The dim light revealed nothing but trunks, valises and the like, grouped more from a view to the convenience of "baggage-smashers" than to artistic effect. The "coming man" had not yet arrived to enliven the prospect, but the meditations of the solitary watcher were cut short by the sudden addition to the scene of a piece of "still life" which did not materially improve the aspect of things. A heavy jar upon the floor of the car attracted the attention of the Agent, and a glance through the aperture revealed the cause of the same. A coffin had been pushed in just in front of the closet, and now stretched its awful length in close proximity to the spot occupied by the anxious watcher. He thought of the "Ancient Mariner," and his voyage with a crew of dead men, and fancied how that old gentleman must have felt, and how he himself must ride through the night-hours with such a companion, who could make his gloomy presence felt, though hidden by the walls of his narrow house. "He has less room than I!" thought the Agent, "but he don't need as much." Then his reflections naturally took a professional turn, and a crowd of thoughts apropos to the subject before him, rushed upon his mind. He derived some comfort from the reflection that the defunct was a perfectly safe passenger—one whom it would be unnecessary to watch, however ravenous he might have been in his lifetime. "After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well," mumbled of baggage-masters, porters, conductors; even of Mail Agents. "Nothing can touch him further." Perhaps if he were alive he would be as troublesome a customer as Tuckerman himself. He's just as quiet now, however, as if he had been a lamb in innocence. Let us give him the benefit of the doubt. "Nil de mortuis," &c, especially if you don't know anything about them.

This course of thought was suddenly interrupted by the arrival of Tuckerman, accompanied by a porter, who very unceremoniously tumbled in his (Tuckerman's) great trunk in close proximity to the ominous looking long box. The owner of the trunk after giving directions respecting the place where he wished this important piece of baggage to stand, (a place, of course, conveniently near to the mail-bags,) drew out his fancy cigar-case, lighted a "regalia" and politely offered another to his companion, the baggage-master. "John," said Tuckerman,

thoughtfully contemplating the coffin, while he slowly evolved the smoke from his mouth, "What have you here, a corpse?"

"Yes," was John's reply.

"Ah," said Tuckerman, with a long drawn sigh, and a sympathetic shake of the head, "that's a hard way to ride, isn't it?"

"Not so hard," thought Uncle Sam's official, "as to ride with a special Agent on your track." A few hours later and the guilty man would have been glad to exchange places with our dead companion.

Fortunately for the Agent, his factories were not easily irritated by the fumes of tobacco, or he might, by some untimely sneeze or cough, have betrayed the secret of his presence. The only effect which he perceived was a desire to participate in the luxury which Tuckerman and his companion were enjoying. So the time wore away with the live occupants of the car until the train reached Stamford, when the opportunity for which both Tuckerman and the Agent were waiting, presented itself. The two baggage-men went out to "wood up," taking the light with them, and leaving the car in darkness.

Tuckerman evidently believed in the truth of the maxim "Dead men tell no tales," for no sooner was he left alone (as he supposed) with the occupant of the coffin, than his practised hand was at work, transferring mail-bags to the "Grand Trunk" Conveyance Line.

The result to Tuckerman of this night's excursion—twenty one year's imprisonment, is well known to the public, and the details of his arrest, trial and conviction, need not be repeated here.

The Post Office in its Infancy.

Doctor Franklin was appointed General Deputy Postmaster of the Colonies, in the year 1753, with a salary between him and his confederate, of £600.—"If they could get it." This experiment brought him in debt £900, and his success in expediting the mails, which he dwells upon with much satisfaction in his writings, will create a smile in these days of electricity, steam, and Young American speed. In the year 1754 he gave notice that the mail to New England, which used to start but once a fortnight in winter, should start once a week all the year, *whenever uncovers might be obtained to letters between Philadelphia and Boston in three weeks, which used to require six weeks.*

Franklin was removed from his office, by the British Ministry; but in the year 1775, the Congress of the Confederation, having assumed the practical sovereignty of the Colonies appointed a committee to devise a system of post office communication, who made a report recommending a plan, on the 26th of July, which, on the same day, was adopted, and Doctor Franklin unanimously appointed Postmaster General, at a salary of \$1,000 per annum. The salary of the Postmaster General was doubled on the 16th of April, 1779, and on the 27th of December of the same year, Congress increased the salary to \$5,000 per annum.

An Inspector of Dead Letters was also appointed at a salary of \$100 per annum, who was under oath faithfully and impartially to discharge the duties of his office, and enjoined to take no copies of letters, and not to divulge the contents to any but Congress, or to those who were appointed by Congress for that purpose. Doctor Franklin on the 7th of November, 1776, was succeeded as Postmaster General, by his relative, Richard Bache, who remained in office to the 28th of January, 1782, when he was succeeded by Ebenezer Hazard, who was the last head of the General Post Office under the Confederation.

In 1790, there were but seventy-five post offices throughout the United States, and 1,875 miles of post routes.

The General Post Office in the year 1790, was located in New York, and Samuel Osgood was the first Postmaster General, under the Federal Government. His conception of the duties of his Office, was doubtless very humble, as he recommended that the Postmaster General should not keep an office separate from the one in which the mail was opened and distributed, that he might, by his presence, prevent irregularities, and rectify any mistakes that might occur.—in fact, to put the Postmaster General, his Assistant, and their one clerk, into the City post office, to see that its mails were assorted, and made up correctly!

The salary of Mr Osgood was \$1,500 per annum. Timothy Pickering was appointed by Washington, August 12th, 1791, at an increased salary of \$2,000. Joseph Habersham was the last Postmaster General appointed by Washing-

ton. He was commissioned April 22d, 1795, at a salary of \$2,400 per year.

The Office was located at Philadelphia in the year 1796, and was established at Washington, when the Federal Government was removed there; and in 1802 the United States ran their own stages between Philadelphia and New York, finding coaches, drivers, horses, etc.; and cleared in three years, over \$11,000 by carrying passengers!

New York Forty Years ago.

We give our readers, in the following letter, a glimpse of "long time ago" in this metropolis. The worthy postmaster's exultation at the improvements in this office will provoke a smile from those who are familiar with the extent of the business now transacted in the same office. The solitary clerk, serving "the residue of our customers" after "the press of our applicants" was over, stands in strong contrast with the 238 clerks and 88 letter carriers, who are now found necessary to carry on the business of the office:

POST OFFICE, New York, 20th Dec. 1818.
William A Colman, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—The internal as well as external improvements of the office are at length completed, and I have the pleasure to say they give general satisfaction. You will be astonished to see the effect of the alterations. We have abundance of room for all our operations, and the facility and expedition of our delivery is gratifying to all. You know that all our mails are received in the morning. We can deliver at our three office Deliveries, so as to empty our boxes in about fifteen minutes, or to get rid of the press of our applicants. After this is over, one person can serve the residue of our customers, and when we have your aid in the newspaper department, we shall increase this dispatch and give more general satisfaction. Our newspaper boxes for printers are much applauded, and give us great relief in the interior.

I expect to have the pleasure of seeing you by the first of January in this city, and that you will keep your engagement. Mr. Brinslie's fire-place does well, and I have a light roof thrown over our office windows in garden street, and the front delivery window less much better than the old lobby. But I hope you will soon see the whole and judge for yourself.

I am dear sir, very sincerely yours,
THEODORUS BAILEY.

If you see any rare publication or curious thing, or article in Boston, of moderate value; such as cannot be had here, please bring it for me!

Items from the Dead Letter Office.

Received a Registered Letter returned from Germany, containing a brick bat. A sample, perhaps furnished by a man having a house for sale.

A letter held for postage, containing a piece of Canal Coal, 3 in. wide by 4 in. long, and 1 1/2 in. thick.

One directed to Chicago, New Orleans.

One to Cincinnati, spelled "Zinzinnaddi."

One to Louisiana, spelled "Lucy anua."

One to "960 miles west of Buffalo."

In last six months, 301 letters came to the Dead Letter Office entirely without direction. [There are more than that number of letters without addresses, dropped into the New York office in a year, many of which having the printed card of the writer upon them, are returned at once for direction, without going to the Department. Ed. Mail.]

SPENSKY.—A postmaster was lately written to from the Department, notifying him that his quarterly account had not been received. His reply was full of indignation, having made his return at the close of the quarter.

He says, "Under these *add-verse* circumstances, I am inclined to say, that

The office is not worth a *d—n*
To me nor to dear 'Uncle Sam'
And if you want me to send the mail key,
You've only to say so, and so it shall be."

POSTAGE STAMPS.—During the quarter ending September 30th, the number of one cent postage stamps issued by the Post Office Department was 12,756,190; of three cent stamps, 36,512,700; of all other denominations, 1,739,690; total number for the quarter, 51,008,400, against 44,592,285 for the corresponding quarter last year. The value of these stamps was \$1,351,393, an increase of \$210,894, over the receipts for the same time in 1859. In these receipts stamped envelopes are not taken into account. Of these 6,702,400 were sold, the postage amounting to \$214,693.

BENEVOLENCE AND POSTAGE STAMPS.—The *Boston Courier* has an article relating how a benevolent but eccentric old gentleman in New Hampshire, has promised to give a poor but worthy youth an education, as soon as said youth shall have collected *defaced postage stamps* enough to cover the walls of a room, which labor is said to be a trial of his patience and perseverance. A vast number are still requisite, and several *kind hearted ladies* feeling an interest in the matter, are assisting in the collection, and have already accumulated several thousand cast off stamps.

This "dodge" was tried not long ago in England. A notice appeared in the papers that a loving couple most anxious to enter into the holy state, were prevented by the whim of a capricious old father, who refused his consent until a certain number of defaced stamps should have been collected by the amorous youth, somewhat after the manner of Saul's trial of David, (1 Samuel, xviii: 25.) the benevolent public were entreated to come to the assistance of the impatient lovers, and great numbers of stamps were actually sent them from all quarters.

The police, however, looked up the old gentleman, when it was found that the tyrannical father was no other than an ingenious knave who had found out a process for restoring the defaced stamps, and who sold them for re-use.

It will perhaps be well to enquire what proportion the benevolent qualities of our New Hampshire friend, bear to his scientific and chemical knowledge.

STAYED NOT STOLEN.—Since the publication of the famous "Paper Mill Story," which for its remarkable details and astounding revelations, was not much behind the notorious "Moon Hoax," we have heard but little of the carelessness of postmasters in sending letters to the paper maker, instead of to the hands of the persons to whom they were addressed. We are not quite sure however, that the former "sensation" article with all its errors and exaggerations, has not in some measure led to the immunity since enjoyed apparently, in regard to that class of mistakes of the mail. They have not entirely ceased, however, as appears from the following letter addressed to the Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department

Post Office, Southerton Bridge, N. H.
Oct. 10, 1860.

SIR:—The letter mailed at this office, June 9, 1860, containing \$50, written by A. B. Wyatt, and addressed to Messrs. Doak & Topliff, Greenwich, Mass., which letter was supposed to be lost, and reported to the Department, July 23, has been found and the money returned to Mr. Wyatt. The letter was found by Messrs. Patch & Co., tin plate workers, Fitchburg, Mass., among some waste paper brought in by one of their pedlars.

It appears probable that the letter was dropped in some office while on its way to its destination, and taken up with the waste paper and sold to the pedlar, and was fortunately found as above stated.

Your obedient servant,
AMOS H. JONES, P. M.

Great care should be taken to avoid accidents of this kind, especially in large offices where they are most apt to occur. In some of them, and it should be so in all, the waste paper is examined carefully by a trusty hand, before it goes from the office, a precaution which has saved many letters, and some of them no doubt of pecuniary value, from running the gamut of the "pedlars" and paper millites.

HOTEL LETTERS.—A glance at the letter pigeon holes of the principal hotels in large cities, will go far to account for the heavy invoices of dead letters constantly arriving at Washington. Probably the most ancient missives of this description, are from the hotels, as there is too often great neglect in sending them to the post office. Many of them are letters arriving for guests after they have left, but we are informed that thousands of them are from "drummers" who watch the lists of arrivals, and let fly at random large batches of these "reminders" addressed to old acquaintances, strangers who are supposed to have arrived with a pocket full of "rocks" or an "A No. 1" reputation at the mercantile Agency, with which to purchase goods. What a sad disappointment to them, must be the non-receipt of this class of letters! especially to those who have been "drummed" until even the sound of a drum sets them nearly crazy.

POST MASTERS.—The whole number of post offices in the United States on the 13th Oct. ult. was, according to the official records of the P. O. Department, 28,573:

Official Courtesy, etc.

The post-office clerk who fails to do his duty thoroughly, is like a light-house keeper, who now and then allows his light to go out, or become dim. Sometimes no harm may result; but it may be that the helmsman of some gallant ship laden with precious goods, and far more precious lives, seeing no light to direct him through the angry storm, steers blindly onward, and is wrecked upon the very spot whence the guiding star should have beamed.

Not only is it the duty of those connected with post-offices to exercise the utmost carelessness and exactness, in order that mail matter may promptly reach the persons for whom it is intended, but sometimes much caution and discretion are required from them, that letters may not fall into hands for which they were not designed.

There are other qualifications scarcely less desirable for post-office employes than exactness and caution. Patience and courtesy toward the various individuals constituting that public which it is the duty of these officials to serve, go very far in carrying out the idea of the post-office,—that of being a convenience to the community.

We have elsewhere shown that the life of a post-office clerk is not passed upon a bed of roses, and we would here call his attention to the truth that many annoyances must be expected by him in the course of his experience. The ignorance and consequent pertinacity of those who apply for letters, frequently try his patience to the utmost.

A person for instance, anxiously expecting a letter, and not understanding that the mail by which it would come arrives only once a day, inquires at the post-office half a dozen times on the same day, and it is not very wonderful that the clerk in attendance should give short answers to the persevering applicant, or even omit to search for the letter. Yet, even in a case like this, much allowance should be made for the possible circumstances of the person in question. He may be waiting for news from a sick child, or for some other information of the utmost importance to him, and it is surely hard enough to be disappointed in such expectations, without being obliged to suffer the additional pain of a harsh response.

Of course post-office clerks seldom know the peculiar circumstances of those who apply for letters; but the exercise of patience and mildness toward all, would be sure to spare the feelings of those who often rather need sympathy than rough words.

Many who carry on little correspondence, and therefore have little occasion to be informed respecting post-office matters in general, often make blunders which are very annoying; but it is to be remembered that those in charge of the post-office, were employed for this, (among other things which contribute to the perfection of this branch of public service) namely, to bear with all classes of correspondents, and to maintain a uniform courtesy toward every one. This would render it possible for even the most timid to approach the "delivery window," without experiencing the sensation of looking into a lion's den, as has sometimes (but I trust seldom) been the case.

On the other hand, it is reasonable that those who avail themselves of the conveniences of the post-office, should take pains to inform themselves on those points which it is necessary they should know, in order to avoid giving inconvenience to themselves, and unnecessary trouble to those appointed to serve them.

The times of opening and closing mails, and similar matters, should be known, that the post-office may not bear the blame due to negligence outside its walls.—"Ten years among the mail bags."

Rhymes and Odd Addresses on Letters.

To George S. Foster, ever known,
As faithful kind and true,
At John street No. 41,
New York, this line is due,
And there let "Sam" (not Uncle Sam)
But "Sam" of 41,
Bear this in manner as it am,
Directed to be done,
With all the other vast consarns,
Sent to the care of Ames & Barnes.

Swift as the dawn your course pursue,
Let thought your speed restrain,
Until you meet Miss Mary Drew,
In Newfield, State of Maine.

Oh! Julius O'Flaherty, peep into me,
And see the love waiting to jump out at thee,
Break the seal carefully—handle with care,
Commonwealth Massachusetts, P. O.—Ware.

Thimothe O'Flanigan
state O Masekwitts,
or elsewhere.

To Mr. Bartholowen
Kelly, O'state
Rhode Island,
Connecticut.

Mattilda Gaw,
Lately from the Big Parish,
Ireland, and was nearly reeked
coming across, and has engaged
with Miss Phillips to feed hogs,
and rear chickens and tend Kows, care
Miss Phillips Smith St.

New Burgh N. Y.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1860.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York. Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The Sanctity of the Mails.

It would perhaps be more exact to speak of the sanctity of the seals, since it is the protection to the privacy of correspondence conferred by these, which renders the mail service a blessing and not a curse to the public. This protection is secured in this country (so far as legal enactments can do it), by stringent regulations and severe penalties attached to their violation. The government which violates the confidence reposed in it, by examining the letters which pass through its mails for the purpose of becoming acquainted with their contents, is far advanced in tyranny and despotism.

The detestable system of espionage which Napoleon I. devised and carried out with the assistance of Fouché, depended in part for its efficiency on the unscrupulous opening and copying of letters passing through the post office. They were resealed and forwarded to the persons addressed, but the information which they furnished led to not a few sudden arrests and mysterious disappearances.

Although in our times, and in our country, no one is thus liable to government interference, nor if he were, would the consequences be so serious to him, yet the condition of the community would be intolerable, should any general suspicion exist that the secrecy of correspondence was not safe in the hands of those to whom it is committed. The intercourse of friendship, the operations of commerce, the negotiations of governments, in short, all the interests of modern civilized life, are inseparably connected with the postal system. No nation can prosper without a secure and unrestricted means of mail communication, and any government regulation which either directly or indirectly countenances the slightest invasion of the privacy of letters, is "of evil example," and at once opens the door to innumerable abuses.

An instance of this occurs to us as a memory of the old times of high postage,—that benighted period when "the slow shilling" seemed better than "the nimble sixpence." At this time the law required that each separate piece of paper contained in a letter should be charged with extra postage, and it was made a part of the duty of a Postmaster to examine letters and ascertain as the best way he could whether they were single or double! This was before envelopes had been introduced, and when the usual way of folding a letter furnished capital facilities, not only for accomplishing the legitimate object of the inspection, but for extending one's investigations, under cover of legal authority, to the ideas which the letter might contain. It is true, there was then, as now, among the laws of the United States, a provision inflicting a severe penalty for the unauthorized opening of a letter, but a Postmaster or clerk of an inquiring turn of mind, even if detected in prying into a letter, had an apology always at hand, like Caleb Balderstone, who made "the thumper" a scapegoat for all his house-keeping deficiencies. The law would break them out to almost any extent, short of breaking a seal, and instead of acknowledging any delinquency in thus tampering with the letters of others, they might claim great credit for extraordinary vigilance in watching over the interests of "Uncle Sam." This process of scrutiny led to another evil of no less magnitude. Money-letters and those containing other valuables, were of course easily distinguished, and thus temptations to dishonesty were in a manner forced upon the attention of post office employes. The tendency of all this was of course highly demoralizing both to those connected with the post office, and to the public at large, by making them familiar with the idea of invading the privacy of correspondence, and by fostering that contemptible inquisitiveness which leads to peeping through key-holes, listening at doors, or prying into letters, as occasion may require.

The present mode of regulating the postage of letters by their weight, has done away with the necessity of such scrutiny as we have mentioned, but it seems strange that the public should ever have tolerated a practice so fruitful of evil. The pretext for its continuance is removed, but it is to be feared that the indulgence of unlawful curiosity is not entirely at an end. Mrs. Mailbeter, the village Post-mistress of the "Antiquary," may be the prototype of a still existing species. The law inflicts a penalty on such creatures, whenever they are caught in their dirty work. Society also inflicts its penalty by visiting the offender with the contempt and indignation of every honorable person. We readily admit that in a country office, the temptation to meddle with correspondence is great to some persons. In a city office, it is not often that any motive other than a desire for "filthy lucre," leads an employe to examine the contents of letters. The multitude of these which daily pass through his hands, for the most part addressed to persons who are strangers to him,—this wholesale business precludes the existence of retail curiosity. Besides this, the usages of city life are unfavorable to the cultivation or exercise of the habit of prying into the affairs of one's neighbors. In the country, the case is different. There are fewer objects of interest to

occupy the attention, and to furnish subjects for conversation or gossip. Every one knows a good deal about his neighbor's affairs, and wants to know a good deal more. The post office, the store, and the blacksmith's shop, are the foci of information for the town, and it is not strange that those who are connected with the former institution, in their thirst for knowledge, and their desire to be a little in advance of the public in the matter of intelligence, should sometimes try the sweetness of "stolen waters," and gratify their thirst at the expense of their honor. We intend to place no slur upon country offices as compared with those of the city, nor to assert that offences of this kind are common, but simply to indicate a point at which they are more exposed, in consequence of the circumstances we have mentioned.

Such delinquencies as those of which we have just been speaking are, if possible, more contemptible and disgraceful than those which involve the taking of money, for the motive is smaller and meaner.

Dead Letters.

The whole number of dead letters returned to the General Post Office, is estimated at 2,500,000, including about 500,000 "drop letters," and 50,000 "held for postage." Deducting these two classes, the number of letters actually conveyed in the mails, and failing to reach the persons addressed, may be estimated at little less than two millions a year.

Particular efforts have been made to ascertain the true reasons why letters, especially those with valuable enclosures, failed to reach their destination, and it is satisfactorily established, in the large majority of cases, that the fault is with the writers themselves, either in misdirecting or illegibly directing their communications.

By way of illustrations, it is stated, as the result of inquiries which have been made, that more than sixty per cent. of the letters containing money recently restored to the owners, failed to reach their destination entirely from being misdirected, held for postage, or addressed to transient persons.

In reference to letters with valuable enclosures other than money, the results have been found still more glaring—over eighty per cent. having been either misdirected, held for postage, or addressed to transient persons. These are the proportions of cases explained. Further investigations on this point will tend further to exemplify these positions.

The whole number of dead letters, containing money, registered and sent out during the year ending June 30, 1859, was 9,726, of which 8,574 were delivered, leaving 1,152 unclaimed. The whole amount of money received was \$45,615 14, amount restored to owners, \$41,143 74.

The number of letters registered and sent out, containing valuable enclosures, other than money, such as bills of exchange, drafts, bonds, treasury warrants, &c. was 8,647; of which 7,738 have been restored to the owners, leaving unclaimed 909. The amount of the enclosures was \$2,502,298 11; the amount of the enclosures in sterling was \$6,983,15 5; the amount of the enclosures in francs was 104,421.

Among the difficulties enumerated by the Postmaster General in the way of returning to writers Dead Letters not containing enclosures of value, are the following:

"Thousands of letters are written by transient persons of whom the postmaster at the mailing office knows nothing. Again—many letters are addressed at random to transient persons who are traveling, and on unimportant matters, and the writers of such, if found and notified, would probably not reclaim them. These facts have been demonstrated by actual experiment made in this department. Out of one thousand cases, two-thirds of the writers did not care to recover their letters; and in four hundred and forty-five cases out of one thousand five hundred, the writers of the letters could not be found."

New York Post Office.

The following will show some of the official transactions of the New York Post Office for the year ending 30th September, 1860.

The entire amount accruing from the sale of postage stamps and stamped envelopes, collection of postage on unpaid foreign letters, postage on printed matter, box rents, &c. was \$904,121 49.

Amount of stamps and stamped envelopes sold, included in the above, \$173,234 09.

Letters mailed, independent of those coming from other offices, to be remailed or "distributed," 15,507,654.

Letters received by mail for delivery in the city, 13,250,000.

Letters received for "distribution," (remailed to other offices), not including those from California, 9,250,000.

Circulars mailed, 4,631,957.

Letters delivered by carriers, 6,090,600.

Registered letters sent and received, 172,821.

Letters sent to California, including those received from other offices to be remailed, 499,959.

Letters received from California by steamers, including those to be remailed to other offices, 360,930.

Foreign letters sent, 2,942,449.

Foreign letters received, 2,187,893.

Locked mail bags, and canvass bags with printed matter, made up and dispatched, about 364,000.

Locked and canvass bags received, about 360,000.

Locked mail bags, and canvass bags with printed matter, sent to California, about 8,400.

Foreign mail steamers arrived, 272; departed, 235; total, 457.

Number of clerks employed, 238. Letter carriers, included 28 Collectors, 117. Total, 355.

A comparison with former results, shows that the correspondence of the country about doubles in eight years.

Weekly newspapers sent by the publishers to actual subscribers, (one copy each, only) within the county where printed and published, are by law allowed to pass free in the mails.

To Bank Cashiers.

For the benefit and convenience of the Banks, we propose to publish in each number of the "MAIL," a list of all letters addressed to Bank cashiers, arriving at the New York and other large post offices, but evidently intended for other places. By this means cashiers at a distance on seeing letters to their address, (a mistake having originally been made in the city or town,) can readily obtain them by writing to the Postmaster. In this way, serious delays, annoyances, and sometimes loss, caused by the letters being sent to Washington, would be avoided.

We shall send a copy of our paper to the cashiers, and if they become subscribers, we will commence on the cashiers' list at once. The paper will also be valuable to them in other respects. The postage tables, sailing of steamers, &c., are matters upon which our financial friends should be well and constantly posted.

Another great advantage to banks, brokers, and in fact, large mercantile houses generally, would be the convenient medium which this paper could be made for stopping the payment or negotiation of drafts, checks, notes, etc., supposed to be lost or stolen, while passing through the mails.

A cashier's letter full of drafts, etc., fails to reach its destination. The enclosures being fully described in this paper, a copy being in the hands of every cashier and broker—even if the letter itself should not be found on the list of misdirected bank or brokers' letters, pecuniary loss and much annoyance would be saved, by thus effectually putting on their guard the very class of persons to whom the missing enclosures would be most apt to be presented.

Should this plan save but one letter to each bank in a year, or rescue valuable enclosures in one instance, it would abundantly repay the subscription price of the paper.

Philadelphia Post Office.

There are employed at the Philadelphia Post Office, eighty-three clerks, whose salaries amount in the aggregate to \$85,000 per annum; twenty collectors, at \$8,000; and forty-eight carriers whose net earnings, for the year ending 30th of June last, were \$45,089,00.

The total receipts of the office, for the same period, were \$237,736.75; of which amount \$229,173.92 were for the sale of stamps and stamped envelopes. For the same year, the total number of letters sent from this Office was 5,824,958.

These figures give an idea of the business transacted at the Philadelphia Post Office, now, the second office, in the country. What it was forty-five years ago, when it was the first, may be best stated in the answer of one of its old clerks, given a few days since. When we requested him to furnish some early reminiscences of the Office, said he, "I entered the Philadelphia Post Office in 1815; then we had a total force of four clerks and six carriers; and when the great mail arrived, it came in a single bag, carried in a light sulky."

The changes during the term of service of this clerk represent fairly the rapid increase of the postal business of the country; and the "great mail" of 1815, in a single bag, contrasts strongly with the many tons of mail matter arriving and departing frequently each day to and from our city Post Offices.

The postage stamps of which 223,000,000 in number and \$6,000,000 in value are used in the United States each year, are manufactured in Philadelphia, and distributed from this office. By an order of the Department made in 1859, they are all registered. This has reduced the losses more than one half.

Some idea of the extent of this branch of business may be derived from the fact, that during the past year, 43,319 packages of stamps, ranging in value from \$1 to \$40,000, have been registered and distributed in the Philadelphia Post Office. Out of this number, there have been not exceeding five or six actual losses, and they of small amounts.

The lamp-post letter boxes, which were first tried in Philadelphia, have been found to be convenient and safe. Two hundred and fifty of these boxes have been in use, and it is now proposed to double or treble the number. Not a single case of depredation upon these boxes had as yet occurred.

THE STREET LETTER BOXES.—We have ascertained that many of the complaints or delays in the receipt of letters sent by mail from this city, are traceable to the following cause:

A merchant located at some distance from the general post office in Nassau street, prepares his letters just in season for the afternoon mails, and hands them to his clerk or porter to be taken to the post office. Clerks and porters like to save steps as well as other people, especially when said steps seem useless, and so, without realizing the consequences, or intending to neglect the interests of their employers, they sometimes drop the letters into the most accessible street letter box. The collector may have been his rounds, but a moment before, and when he makes his next visit, it is too late for the mails of that day.

Nor is this the worst of it. The postage by mail only, is prepaid, the extra penny for collecting being of course omitted. And the letter cannot go into the mail at all, until the deficient postage is paid.

This is a serious matter, and correspondents should be sure that where there is only sufficient time to get to the post office before the closing of the mails, their letters are rarely carried where they are designed to be.

FRANKING FOREIGN LETTERS.—Letters cannot be franked to foreign countries, except those sent officially from the Post Office Department at Washington. The right thus to frank, is restricted to England, France and Germany.

We state this in answer to an inquiry from a distant post office.

The Old Dutch Church.

If the outside public, in view of the astonishing statistics given elsewhere—affording some idea of the business done in the New York Post Office—could take a look at the interior of the miserable old "hopper" through which their immense letter grist has to pass, they would—the christian portion of them at least—pray fervently for a new post office.

The fact is, the Old Dutch Church building, to use a somewhat familiar saying, is about "played out." As a post office, it is a disgrace to New York and to the whole country.

The Post Master General having concluded arrangements for the purchase of the present site for a new office, is met by a serious obstacle in the fact that he cannot pay over the money appropriated by Congress for that purpose, until this purchase is authorized and confirmed by the Legislature of New York. "Thus endeth the fifth lesson."

Postage Stamps and Stamped Envelopes.

Postmasters are specially enjoined to observe the various requirements under Chapter 34 of the Standing Regulations of the Department.

The following requirements are most frequently neglected, viz:—

That the name of the post office, that of the county, and likewise of the State, should all be plainly written at the head of orders.

That orders should be signed by the Postmasters themselves, with their official designation, "P. M.," at least, added to their names. The orders should embrace a full supply for at least three months. (Smaller supplies will not be sent except to a few of the larger cities, and in the case of offices yielding less than \$20 a year, a whole year's supply will be sent at the discretion of the Department.)

That orders should be directed to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, and should relate to no other subject whatever. The General Post Office is so extensive, and its duties so multifarious, that different subjects necessarily require to be assigned to separate and distinct classes. (Postmasters should give the amount sold during the preceding quarter.)

Postage stamps and envelopes will not be sent to offices failing to render accounts in due time and in compliance with the forms.

The use of the office dating or post marking stamps as a cancelling instrument, is now entirely prohibited, and a separate instrument required to be used instead. In offices where there is no stamping instrument, the pen effectually used will suffice.

All packages of postage stamps and envelopes are registered, and Postmasters are expected to pay particular attention to the duplicate or return letter bill, and also to report missing packages under sections 451, 452, and 453 of the Standing Regulations.

Extract from a letter written to the publisher of the "MAIL," by a Rhode Island Postmaster: "I have Ten Years Among the Mails; in my library and like it much, and if I am so unfortunate as to be overtaken by temptation and conquered, I should consider my case a hopeless one if you were to be put on my track!"

There are many things received and sent through the mails, that cost the senders nothing, unless they are caught in the act. Such as silk aprons, handkerchiefs, letters, pocket-knives, sugar-cases, flowers, mince-pies, doughnuts, collars, jewelry, etc., being smuggled through in newspapers and pamphlets. Can no stop be put to this?

The sending of papers, etc., by merely marking them "Paid," is still kept up by some postmasters or clerks. If they do not respect the post office laws, how can we expect the public to do so?

Pains should be taken to discover at what offices such violations of the Department instructions requiring stamps on all transient printed matter occurs, that the offending officials may be reported and dealt with accordingly.

THE BOSTON MAIL.—We mentioned in our last issue, that the Post Master General contemplated an arrangement by which a mail train would leave New York for Boston on the arrival of the evening Southern mail in this city by the Amboy route. A contract has since been made with the railroad companies to run a train by way of Hartford and Springfield, leaving New York at 8 o'clock P. M.

We understand that this arrangement is to take effect on the 26th inst.

SIMPLE QUESTIONS.—Have Postmasters whose compensation does not exceed \$200.00 per annum, having the right to send and receive free written communications on their private business not exceeding half oz. in weight—the right to send with such communications, and frank the same, bank checks, bank bills and postage stamps for the payment of merchandise. Subscription to newspapers, or for books, pamphlets, etc., strictly their own, and for themselves only; provided such written communications with their enclosures, do not exceed a half oz. in weight?

Answer, yes, of course.

Have such Postmasters the right to frank to publishers, articles written for general publication, on agriculture, horticulture, literature, politics, etc., such articles being their own composition, and written by themselves?

Answer, yes.

AN INGENUOUS EXCUSE.—An individual who ought to have known better, was recently detected in using a penny stamp a second time, the cancelling process having been very imperfectly performed. As is well known, the device upon postage stamps of that denomination, is the likeness of Franklin.

The droll excuse for this violation of the law, was, that the lamented Doctor had during his lifetime, advanced the economical idea that a "penny saved is as good as a penny earned," and that having thus far found it safe and profitable to practice upon this and similar excellent maxims, he (the violator of the law) had followed the philosopher's advice, and, by the second use of the stamp, saved the penny!

NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.—The Post Master General, determined to meet every reasonable requirement for the public accommodation, for which the laws give him authority, has ordered stamped envelopes of the denomination of one penny, designed for circulars and city drop letters. He is also considering the propriety of issuing envelopes, with four cent stamps affixed, to be used upon letters placed in the street letter boxes, to be sent on by the mails, which class of letters, under the law, are required to be pre-paid one penny, or transporting them to the Post Office, in addition to the mail postage.

ARREST.—Jeremiah Dooly was arrested at Rochester, N. Y., on the 29th ult., charged with purloining the letters of Doctor J. A. West of Rochester.

It appears that the Dr. had lost a number of letters arriving by mail from different points, and as Dooly was his P.O. messenger, suspicions fell upon him. Special Agent Warner at last detected him in a manner leaving no doubt as to his guilt.

The parties interested would have it, that the trouble was caused by the dishonesty of the clerks in the Rochester P. O., but as is often the case, their reputation has, by this discovery and arrest, been triumphantly vindicated.

CONDITIONALLY.—We have had two offers to subscribe for the "MAIL," on condition that the subscription price shall be paid if the "Union is not dissolved." We have entered both names on our list, and confidently expect to get the two dollars.

We observe that the newspapers are copying pretty extensively from our columns without giving the usual credit.

Do not the laws of Congress provide against taking any articles from the U. S. Mail without leave? A word to the wise is sufficient.

Our Wall Street Inquirer, we would state that China and East India mails, are dispatched from London on the 10th, and 26th of each month, via Marseille; and on the 4th and 20th of each month, via Southampton.

Mails for Brazil, are dispatched from London on the 9th of each month.

In a recent case, the Post Office Department has decided that a person sending a printed circular in an open envelope, may send with it a stamped envelope of an amount sufficient to cover the answer of his correspondent, without the payment of additional postage. It was long since decided that postage stamps to prepay return postage, may be sent in the same way.

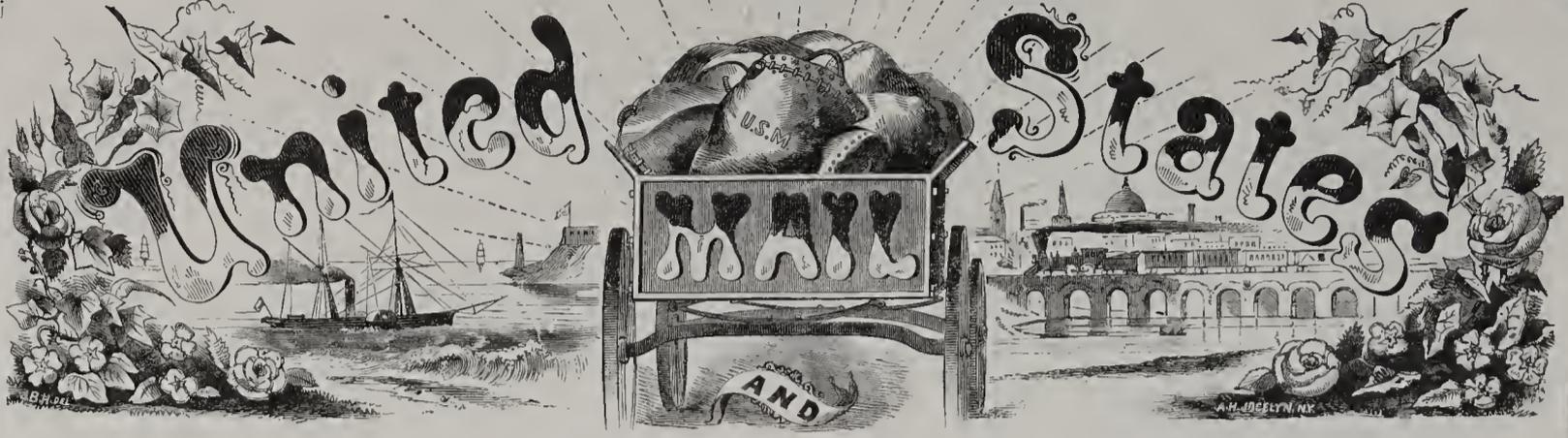
Post Office Department.

For a miniature view of the internal organization of the Post Office Department, we will visit with the reader the elegant marble edifice at Washington occupied by the Department, covering an entire city square, overlooking in a southerly direction, the gentle Potomac, about a mile distant.

Let us ascend at once to the second story, in a central room, of which, the Post Master General, Hon. JOSEPH HOLY, has his seat. We observe, as we enter the building, that the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, of whom we shall soon have something to say, occupies with his large force of clerks its Eastern half. In the Western portion is situated the Department proper, conducted by the Post Master General and his Assistants, aided by eighty-nine clerks.

In an apartment adjoining that of the Post Master General, on his right, his First Assistant HORATIO KING, Esq., has his office. His corps of nineteen clerks are actively engaged in briefing for submission to him, and through him to the Post Master General, the papers received relating to the establishment or discontinuance, or change of site or name of post offices, or to the appointment or removal of postmasters or route agents; also in preparing the correspondence connected therewith; or in filling the commissions or bonds of newly appointed postmasters; or in answering inquiries of postmasters as to obscure points in the postal laws or regulations. This correspondence is not only large, but as it involves in many instances personal character, and considerations of a delicate nature, it is to a considerable extent confidential. This may properly be styled the political bureau of the Department. It is to be observed, further, that, of late, the foreign mail service has been under charge of this office. The duties of this bureau—always onerous—are especially so during the first year of a new President. To aid in arriving at a proper estimate of the amount of its business we remark that there were 1,455 new post offices established, and 893 discontinued, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859, also, 432 changes in their sites and names, and 7,543 appointments of postmasters, of which 4,934 resulted from resignations, deaths, etc., and 867 from removals. We may add that postmasters are furnished with marking and rating stamps and letter balances by this bureau, which is charged also with providing blanks and stationery for the use of the Department, and with the superintendence of the several agencies established for supplying postmasters with blanks. To this bureau is likewise assigned the supervision of the ocean mail steamship lines, and of the foreign and international postal arrangements.

A door to the left of the Post Master General, we find his second Assistant, WM. H. DUNDAS, Esq., in charge of the Contract Office; who, with the aid of twenty-six clerks, sees to the arranging and advertising of the routes authorized by Congress, and to the endorsing, and recording in registers kept for the purpose, of the proposals received therefor, as well as to the drawing up and issuing for execution by the successful bidders, the contracts ordered for the same. This branch also conducts the correspondence connected with mail distribution, and proposed alterations either in the mode, times, or frequency of the mails. As there are in operation about 9,000 routes, (under charge of nearly as many contractors) and the applications for changes in the service are numerous, all of them requiring more or less investigation prior to being passed on, the duty of this division is very heavy. It should be observed that the post routes are let to service for periods of four years, one fourth of them each year, by which means the entire circle is kept in constant motion. (To be continued.)



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1860.

No. 3.

Text for Sabbath School Teachers.

Post-office experience is continually furnishing valuable lessons to the young, especially to those who are exposed to the many and subtle temptations of city life. Here is an incident which is full of instruction to our young friends.

Two brothers, the one about nineteen years of age, and the other only fifteen, were recently employed in a large mercantile house on Broadway. The older acted as messenger to convey the letters of the firm to and from the post-office. Before long, letters were missed that should have been received, and others which should have contained remittances came emptied of their valuable contents. Complaints were made by the firm to the Department, and an investigation was entered upon.

The letters were conveyed from the post-office to the store in a small locked trunk, duplicate keys of which were kept at each place. This circumstance seemed to render it improbable that the lad should have been the guilty party, and the improbability was further increased by the fact that he had always borne a good reputation. For these reasons, his movements were not very closely scrutinized. Still the losses continued.

About this time, he received the offer of a more eligible situation in the city, which he accepted, taking with him a strong letter of recommendation from his former employer.

The duties of post-office messenger now devolved upon his younger brother, who had been engaged in his new employment only a day or two, when a porter in the establishment, old enough to be his father, suggested to him privately that he could put him in a way of making money if he, the porter, were to be allowed an equal share of the spoils. The little fellow listened attentively while his tempter detailed the mode by which they might fill their pockets at the expense of their employers.

"You know," said he, "that the letters have money in 'em, don't you?"

"Yes," replied George, "but what of that? Even if I was bad enough to take letters, the trunk is locked, and they couldn't get at it."

"Leave that to me," said the seducer, "your brother and I had a key, and I'll make him give it up to us, or else expose him. Do you understand?"

This revelation of the guilt of his brother, whom he had hitherto firmly believed to be innocent, was a terrible shock to the poor boy. And that brother was at the mercy of the porter, who, at any time, might bring upon him exposure and punishment. It seemed to be necessary, then, that he himself should do all in his power to conciliate the person who held his brother's reputation in his own hands. This consideration added weight to the porter's insidious arguments, and he retired from the interview with a heart burdened by the apparently conflicting claims of duty and brotherly affection, to which perhaps were added thoughts of the secrecy with which the proposed robbery might be effected. But he gave the porter upon this occasion no decided answer.

The attempt to corrupt him was again and again renewed, and every art employed by his tempter, beginning with persuasion and ending with threats.

The boy had a mother—a widow and a woman of consistent piety. One evening on returning from his daily task, he unburdened himself to this nearest and dearest of earthly friends. He told her how his brother had fallen—how he himself had been sorely pressed by the tempter, but had hitherto resisted his wiles, and how he wanted to put an end to the trials to which he had been almost daily subjected for some time past, for he feared that he too might be overcome. And, "oh! mother," exclaimed the boy, "if I hadn't remembered what you taught me, and what my teacher tells me in the Sabbath School, I couldn't have held out as long as I did."

We will not attempt to describe the conflict of joy and grief in that poor mother's breast—joy that her youngest boy had so manfully resisted the advances of the evil one—grief that the older and more experienced son had deviated from the path of rectitude.

George's employers were informed of the above mentioned occurrences, and through them the facts were made known to the proper authorities.

The author of all this mischief was caught in his own trap by the aid of the little fellow

whom he endeavored to ensnare, and has received his just deserts.

The boy's employers are proud of him, and say that he shall never regret his noble conduct.

His is a virtue that has been severely tested. How many of our lads of fifteen would pass safely through such a trial? His safety lay in the conscience which had been cultivated by the care of his good mother, and by the instruction he received at the Sabbath-School; and the two instrumentalities named are of far greater importance to the well-being of community, than all the apparatus of courts and prisons.

Postage Stamps.

[NUMBER 1.]
The question "what becomes of all the pins?" is one which has for a long time puzzled the brains of many anxious inquirers after knowledge, and notwithstanding the humorous reply of some classical wit, that "they fall to the earth and become terra-pins," the mystery of the ultimate fate of those useful contrivances remains as far from a satisfactory solution as ever. It would probably be less difficult to find an answer to an inquiry as to what becomes of all the postage-stamps, and yet in view of the immense number which are daily produced, issued and consumed, the subject could hardly fail to strike any one with a taste for statistics, as a suggestive and fruitful one for investigation. It is not our purpose, however, to enter upon this task at present, but simply to give our readers a glimpse at the *modus operandi* of the sale of these convenient articles, as conducted at our largest Post Office, New York. Although the demand for postage stamps is of course almost universal, yet in a city like this, with its large and varied population, the individual consumption is much less evenly distributed than that of almost any other article in such general use. With some, the purchase of stamps is an event of comparative rarity, and an item of but small importance in their yearly expenses, while with others it is a matter of daily necessity, and entails an expense which their annual balance-sheet shows to be no trifle. To accommodate both these classes of purchasers, the Department for the sale of stamps and stamped envelopes at the New York office is divided into two sections, in one of which all transactions to the amount of \$1 and upwards are carried on, while the other supplies the more limited wants of those who desire to procure smaller quantities, down to a single "one cent."

Let us step for a few moments into the first mentioned office, which is situated at the head of the staircase leading to the entrance to the offices of the Postmaster, Secretary and Cashier. At a counter within the enclosed space formed by a high partition, stands the clerk who presides over this department, busily employed in dealing out to the numerous customers sheets and portions of sheets of stamps of divers colors and bearing different devices, and could we peep behind the partition, we should see snugly stowed within the recesses of a capacious "salamander," a goodly pile of his stock in trade, sufficient, one might think, to supply the needs of all the letter-writers of the city for months. This, however, he informs us, is but the remains of the last invoice received from the Department, and were it not for the fact that a fresh stock is now on its way, the constant demand would soon exhaust the supply—thereby producing a public excitement which might be better imagined than described.

This office is open from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M., and the average sales now amount to about \$2,800 per day, and are constantly increasing. The late regulation of the Department by which the prepayment of all postage, both on foreign and domestic letters, is obliged to be made in stamps, has caused a large increase in the sales, as formerly many persons preferred paying their foreign postage in money. Until within a short time the 12 cent stamp was the highest denomination issued, but the large amount which is sometimes required for the payment of but one foreign letter necessitated the use of those of a higher value, and accordingly 24, 30 and 90 cent stamps are now sold, making eight different denominations issued by the Department, viz: 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 30 and 90 cents. Of course 1 and 3 cent stamps are in greatest demand, though on "steamer days" the higher denominations form a large portion of the sales. In paying large amounts of postage, the number of 10 and 12 cent stamps which it was sometimes found necessary to affix for the purpose, often increased, by their weight, the amount

payable, to the extent of an additional rate—an objection entirely done away with by the use of the larger denominations.

From the opening until the closing hour, the counter is besieged by a steady stream of customers, and "queer customers" some of them are, as we may discover by a few minutes observation. Here comes one, evidently from the "rural district," a keen, cautious-looking individual, who saunters in in a leisurely way, evidently determined not to betray, by the exhibition of undue haste, any anxiety to purchase, and unwilling to part with his money except upon the most favorable terms, and after all the solemn formalities of a regular bargain-making. "How d'ye sell stamps?"

"That depends upon what kind you want, sir."

"Well, let's see what kind you've got."

"Ours three cents costs twelve twenty-fourths and nineties," says the clerk, with bewildering rapidity, and with an utter disregard of punctuation.

"How do you sell your three cent ones?"

"Three cents apiece, of course," answers the official, rather impatiently, with a slight suspicion that he is being "quizzed."

"Yes, I s'pose so—that's your retail price—but you see, I want to get a lot of 'em, and I'd just as lief get 'em of you as anybody else, if you'd allow a discount for cash, and take Illinois money—good as wheat."

"We can't allow any discount, sir, and we don't take any money except gold and silver," says the clerk, with business-like brevity.

"Well, but you see I want to get a good lot of 'em—maybe six or seven dollars worth, and if you—"

"Give me three hundred dollars' worth of three," says a bank-clerk, who has been waiting the issue of this colloquy with an amused grin on his countenance, but who can't spare the time to enjoy it longer, depositing on the counter a double handful of half-eagles. The gentleman from Illinois eyes the glittering pile with eager looks, and watches the clerk as he carefully counts over the hundred sheets.

"Don't they allow you no discount?"

"No, sir," says the bank clerk; "you don't catch Uncle Sam allowing discount—don't do business in that way."

And the western customer, his visions of a "bargain" effectually dissipated, departs for Wall street to buy his "Illinois money"—good as wheat, converted (at a modest "markup") into more available currency.

Presently in steps an unmistakable Cockney—a very recent arrival. "Oh, give me a queen's 'ead, please,"—laying on the counter a half-crown.

"Give you what, sir?—what's a queen's 'ead?" says the puzzled clerk.

"Oh, a queen's 'ead, you know—a a thimble—what d'ye call it—a stamp, you know—a shillin' stamp—I've just hurried 'em by the Hasia, you know, and I want to send this letter 'ome, to let the hold folks know I've got 'ere safe, you know—ere's 'alf a crown, I 'ave'n't a shillin', you know."

He is directed to the retail stamp window, with a recommendation there to supply himself with a 24 cent stamp as a substitute for a "queen's 'ead."

Next comes a gentleman of the "colored persuasion," who gravely requests to be furnished with "two hundred white antelopes," and who rejects with scorn a suggestion that he might have misunderstood his orders. So resisting the temptation to refer him to a menagerie as the only place where his zoological tastes might chance to be gratified, the clerk supplies him with the two hundred envelopes, and he departs triumphant.

Many such odd little scenes as these vary the somewhat monotonous routine of the business of the wholesale department.

THE "IRISH OFFICE."—Several years ago a Ronto Agent on the New York Central R. R. established a post-office on his own responsibility without consultation with or direction from the Post-Office Department. He had just been appointed, and was running his first trip alone. As the train approached a village not a hundred miles from Buffalo, the whistle sounded, and the agent feeling the immense responsibility resting on him, and fearing the mail would be carried by, jumped up and instantly hurried the mail-bag out of the door. It was afterwards found floating down a river which has since been known as the "Irish office."

[For The U. S. Mail.]

"Cheap Schooling."

Experience we all know is knowledge practically learned, and there have been occasions when the highest officials of the Department have acknowledged its pre-eminent advantages. Some years since the ingenuity of amateur mechanics was called into play by the numerous robberies of the mail in the coaches. One gentleman brought forward a flexible case of linked work with the design of being attached in some way to the axle-tree, boot, or perch of the stage. The inventor induced a high functionary to say that he would give a hundred dollars if the "mail protector" could be opened by violence in ten minutes. At the appointed time, and upon ground near where the Patent Office now stands, a French mechanic from Georgetown, (D. C.) came forward with an apron of tools, and the time-piece being held in the hand, he was directed to commence his invasion. In five minutes' time, his chisels and wrenches were so successfully plied that the work was accomplished—the case was opened, and the sanguine inventor looked, or affected astonishment—word he spoke not. A Quaker standing by, till then mute, with great simplicity suggested, that with "the permission granted, and tools used, the money is thrown away." The Frenchman replied, denigrating, "Non Messieurs, l'argent is not 'trown away"—"one hundred dollars very cheap schooling in some things"—and he pocketed his reward with the greatest *nonchalance*; adding, "You see my name is Laporte. [He doors,] and I show you how your door can be easily opened!"

Dear Laporte, his ingenuity and wit are lauded more effectually than was his worth when in the land of the living—and an humble official begs to scatter a few green leaves over his neglected grave.

TO LETTER WRITERS.—We find in a recent number of the "National Crisis," a Washington "Campaign paper," the following useful directions to correspondents employing the mails:—

"If persons writing letters will strictly observe the following simple rules, the labor of the Clerks in the Dead Letter Office will not only be very materially diminished, but the complaints, now so common and so numerous, would nearly cease. To prevent your letter being returned to the Dead Letter Office, carefully observe:

1. That the postage is paid by stamps, and, if to a foreign country, be particular and see that it is paid in full. Do not trust this latter matter to your own judgment, but submit the case to the Postmaster, or consult reliable postage tables.

2. Address your letter in a plain, legible hand, or procure it to be done; write the name of the person addressed in full, spelling it correctly; if it is to be sent to a large city, write the number of the house and name of the street or the number of the person's box at the post-office; if it is to be sent to a small town, write the name of the post-office so plainly that it can be read at a glance, give the name of the county and State in such a manner that it cannot be misread for any other than that which is intended. If uncertain as to the name of the county, or the post-office, consult a Post-Office Directory which can be found at all offices where letters are received.

3. If at all in doubt as to whether your letters will be called for by the person to whom it is addressed, or if its return to the writer is at all desirable in case of its non-delivery, or other important matter, the writer should make the following endorsement upon the face of the letter:

"P. M. If not delivered within thirty days, return to _____ giving your name, Post-office, county and State, and under the late law of Congress your letter will be returned to the writer without any additional charge of postage."

Let these rules be adopted, give the name of the post-office at which your letter is dated and from which it is to be sent, sign your name in full, and we shall hear less about the negligence of Postmasters. As the matter now stands, it is a marvel to us how it is that so many badly directed letters reach their intended destination.

Among the new post-offices published in our last, will be found the names of "Why Not," "Hurricane," "Sublimity," "Toll Gate," "Experiment," and "Twinville."

TO POST MASTERS.—In all cases where our paper gives satisfaction, among post masters especially, we hope to receive their patronage and influence.

We have no doubt that many of them can furnish interesting and profitable items for our columns, and we urgently invite such contributions, not only from postmasters, and their assistants, but route agents, etc.

Don't Omit the State.

There are, for instance, seven Philadelphia's besides the one in Pennsylvania, twenty-three Salems, as many Troys, and no end of Washingtons, Jeffersons, and other names distinguished in the history of the country.

There are three New Yorks, and eleven Bostons. Indeed the majority of the names of the State on its direction, is of course reduced to nothing, when there is no other post-office in the country with the same name as the one addressed, especially if there is any oddity about the name. Thus, were we to direct a letter to "Suechoppy," it would be likely to find the place rejoicing in that euphonious title, even were the State (Florida) omitted in the address; although it would often involve the trouble of consulting the list of post-offices. "Sorel Horse," also, could not fail to receive whatever might be sent to it.

A postmaster would not be surprised to find "Sodom" in "Champaign County"; and while on this subject we would say that temperance views seem to have prevailed in naming post-offices. We have two named Temperance, and three Temperancevilles, to balance which, besides the above Sodom, there appear "only" (Gin Town), and Brandy Station, "one of each."

One given to speculation on such matters, would be curious to know what must be the state of society in "Tight Squeeze." Is the "squeeze" commercial or geographical? Do hard times prevail there as a general thing, or is there some narrow pass, leading to the place, which has originated the name? There may be some tradition connected with the subject; at least a moderately lively fancy might make something even of such an unpromising subject as "Tight Squeeze."

Far different must be the condition of things in "Pay Down." This favored place is doubtless cherished by advocates of the credit system, and here Cash must reign triumphant.

Some villages seem to aspire to astronomical honors. There are in our social firmament, one "Sun," one "Moon," and two "Stars"; also, one "Jupiter," and a "Transit," whether of Venus or not is unknown. So it appears that the "man in the Moon," is not altogether a fictitious character but may be a post-master.

The twenty-five thousand names contained in the list of post-offices would furnish many other curiosities as noticeable as those just cited, and we refer those who are desirous of entering more largely into the subject, to that work.

It is sufficient for us to have called the attention of the public to the necessity of exactness and sufficient fulness in the address of letters, and insure their delivery at the place where they are intended to go. Much vexation, and real inconvenience would be obviated, if more care were exercised in this respect, and the Dead Letter Office would have fewer inquiries to make. — Ten years among the Mail Bags.

SUNDAY MAILS.—Is the endorsement upon a letter "To lie over upon the Sabbath," to be regarded?

In answer to the inquiry of a gentleman conscientiously opposed to Sunday travel, even of the mails, the Department has decided that the above endorsement, if observed at the mailing office, or at an office of distribution, is to be obeyed.

No instructions are issued upon the subject, however, and it is to be feared that in some cases—especially those of the foreign and California mails, where the voyage occupies over a week, some difficulty would be experienced if the wishes of the writer had to be carried into effect!

Letter addresses recently observed upon letters passing through the post office:

Mr. Gerhens, Sorhary, Warneswell, County, For Margaret Minor, Please Direct an Answer to Patrick minix No. 7 North North ferry street if she is not there.

Miss Louise Foster 36th street some wheres, Penny Post please deliver.

Go fly little missive, As fast as you can, In Walpole New Hampshire, To Miss A. B. Dugann, At the Post Office meet her, For there she will be, To greet thy appearance, —Box two forty three—

Bridget Wars, New York, 25, New York City, 22 America.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1860.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York. Subscriptions received in any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents, it paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

Letters.

If the pecuniary value of letters were to be measured by their intrinsic worth to those who receive them, the revenues of Government from this source would be far greater than they now are. The Press gives utterance to "all thoughts, all feelings, all desires" which concern mankind at large. Its power is felt in every department of social life, and it directs the thoughts and actions of men with influences as irresistible as those which the sacred poet ascribed to the Pleiades. Yet there is a province which it never can occupy. Into the sacred intercourse of friendship, the tender privacy of affection, the secret negotiations of business, it cannot enter. Its iron fingers may write for the world, but not for the individual. Letters will never be written by machinery, excepting those confidential-looking documents, issued from lithographic presses, of which the person addressed is supposed to be the sole recipient. It is very gratifying to receive from a lottery dealer such a communication, promising you an enormous prize in the next "drawing," provided you will forward him ten or twenty dollars, as the case may be, and make public your good fortune, when it comes. Your gratification is materially diminished, however, when you find by comparing notes with your neighbors that they too have been tempted with the like dazzling offers.

What currents of happiness and misery are continually flowing through the mails? The post-office employe, as he stands at his window and sends forth the silent messengers among the expectant crowd, seems like an impassive Fate distributing good and evil with an inexorable hand. The multitude disperse, one with heart elated by "good news from a far country," and another stricken by a bolt sped by the unconscious Fate.

The perusal of old newspapers is an occupation full of interest to those who like sometimes to look back into the olden time and awaken their reminiscences of the past, or gratify their curiosity by learning what their predecessors were doing in their ordinary routine of life, and what topics of interest were then floating upon the current of thought and action. It is pleasant to see how inferior to us were our good ancestors,—how little they understood the great art of advertising and puffing—how limited and contemptible were their amusements compared with those of a generation which has its Blondin, its Negro Minstrels, and its professors of pugilism. But the perusal of old letters awakens feelings deeper than mere curiosity, or an antiquarian interest in the days of yore. They bring again to life those who have long since passed away; they recall the touch of the hand which traced the fading lines, and lift the curtain which has fallen before the scenes and hopes of youth.

"O vision bright! O early years!
Where were your dreams and raptures now?"

There is a sort of immortality about old letters. They retain the life that was imparted to them by the stroke of the pen, and revive the dead year, as the touch of the prophet's body revived the remains of the man who had long been buried.

Illustrated Envelopes.

Letters passing through the mails sometimes receive additions and embellishments not contemplated by their writers. They are made to serve as a medium for the inspirations of anonymous wittings, who might be classed with those who scratch or carve their names on rocks, trees, walls, or even tombstones, at places of public resort, were it not that this letter class are vastly superior to the former in this particular, that they are not anonymous. The amount of wit expended is in either case about the same.

We will mention two or three instances of the buffoonery of which we are speaking. During Presidential Campaigns, letter envelopes are frequently adorned with portraits of the different candidates, which afford a convenient basis for whatever caricatures, any one may see fit to superadd to them.

We saw a letter the other day bearing upon its face the portrait of Senator Douglas, to which had been added, evidently by some one who was an admirer of the "Little Giant," a gallows with the "hemp cravat" about the neck of the Honorable Senator, while under it was written, in a different hand from the address of the letter, "why don't you sign?"

We were also shown another letter, with the likeness of Mr. Lincoln, to which some amateur artist, with more enthusiasm than skill, had added as supporters, two athletes "Wide Awakes," in full uniform: the means of support being a rail, upon which Mr. L. (or rather his head), was progressing in triumph to a stately-looking edifice which, notwithstanding the imperfections of the artist's execution, could easily be recognized as the "White House."

It is hardly necessary to say to any one having a sense of propriety, that such misplaced decorations are pieces of impertinence toward those to whom the letters belong, and we will say for the benefit of those post-office clerks who

may be disposed to indulge in such practices, that the Department is not so desirous of cultivating the fine arts as to be willing to countenance any indecorum toward the public which it serves. It may be useful for delinquents in this particular, to know that the reward of their efforts in the artistic line, will be speedily dismissal from the service, if they are detected.

Boxes at the Post Office.

It may not be amiss to allude to the rules observed at the New York office, in respect to boxes. Only such letters are placed in a box, as are addressed to the individual, or members of the firm to whom the box has been leased, or such as are addressed to their care or the number of the box. This limitation has been rendered necessary by the large number of boxes. To attempt to deliver letters to all persons employed by box-holders, through the boxes, would lead to confusion and innumerable errors, as the memory of a post-office clerk even, is supposed to have some limit.

The system of box-delivery by cards, is found to be the most effectual in guarding against outside dishonesty, although that plan is far from being a perfect safeguard, owing to the want of proper care in keeping the cards beyond the reach of those who are not authorized to take out letters. And in very many cases box-holders do not avail themselves of the card-checks provided.

Repetitive or similar names and firms constitutes one of the most troublesome obstacles in the way of accuracy at the boxes, no less than the "General Delivery." This difficulty may be counteracted in a great degree, by all such persons and business concerns adopting some distinguishing form or style of address, and instructing their correspondents accordingly. The number of the box, kind of business, street and number, are more than usually important in regard to this class of letters. In all cases when a letter is delivered to the wrong party, from the similarity of address, and is opened even with honest intentions, it must be returned to one to the post-office, or the individual retaining it subjects himself to a severe penalty.

These remarks are generally applicable to all large post-offices, and on some points, to small ones also.

"Rich."

We hope our readers will not infer from perusing the present article, that the MAIL is about entering the arena of politics. But the following letter sent us by a worthy Postmaster, is too good and too true to withhold.

Some evil-minded, suspicious persons may draw from it the forced inference that our friend is moved by the coming change in the Administration at Washington, but the probability is that he would have written it a year ago just as readily, had there been a suitable medium for such communications.

We have no hesitation however, in saying that a vast majority of the people of this country, without respect to party, entertain similar sentiments, at all events, so far as the post-office is concerned. It is a fact worthy of mention, that every Postmaster General who has filled that responsible office during the last twenty years, from his own experience and honest convictions,—became an advocate of the divorce of the post-office from party politics. It will doubtless be remembered that the Hon. Cave Johnson, in his last Report to Congress, made an earnest and eloquent appeal in behalf of this branch of post-office reform. But we will detain the readers of the MAIL no longer from the perusal of our friend's letter:

MR. EDITOR:—In the appointment of Postmasters, more than in any other class of public office-holders, we think the political opinions of an applicant should be the last thing looked upon.

If the applicant has the respect of the community in which he resides, is courteous in his manners, and has fidelity united with capacity, these things should be enough, and indeed the only proper requisites to gain him the position of Postmaster. And so long as an incumbent possesses them, he should be permitted to retain his office.

Almost any one can testify to the annoyance caused by the removal of faithful and attentive officers and the substitution of those who cannot hope, for a long time at least, to acquit themselves in a way so satisfactory as that of their predecessors.

While this is the post-office, so indisputably allied to the interests of all, can never become perfected.

Yours respectfully,
L. D.—

HONESTY THE BEST POLICY.—If persons engaged in the Gift Enterprise business expect to be treated in their use of the mails, as legitimate patrons of Uncle Sam, they should not attempt to "do" him out of the legal postage on the "gifts" they send by mail, as a discovery of such an attempt, causes distrust, and may subject even their honestly made up packages, to scrutiny and temporary detention.

A complaint was made recently, by a party in the far West, that certain "gifts" ordered of a concern in this city, and paid for, had not been received. An investigation explained the cause. A package of books mailed here by the firm referred to, accidentally burst open while in the St. Louis post-office, when it was discovered that each book contained an article of gift jewelry.

Of course the package could not go forward without the payment of the lacking postage, at letter rates.

Our Park Row friends must do business in a fairer way than this, or they certainly will not prosper.

BOSTON POST-OFFICE.—Over 23,000 letters for delivery, are received at the Boston office daily, and about 40,000 arrive from other offices for distribution, requiring of course, to be re-mailed. About 20,000 letters daily are mailed to go from Boston, which are deposited in that office.

The entire amount of revenue collected for the past year, is not far from \$200,000.

Boston is said to be the only city in the Union which can boast of having two post-offices.

[For the U. S. Mail.]

Route Agents.

MR. HOLBROOK:—A number of Route Agents have expressed a desire to know what you think of the reduction in the pay of officials, at the last session of Congress. Many of these agents are running between large cities and towns whose expenses are high, after paying which, but little can be left, with the utmost economy, with which to pay the necessary expenses of a family, out of the maximum salary now fixed at \$800. And it is well known that a large portion of our class, get but five, six, and seven hundred dollars.

Can you tell us what is the prospect of a more equal and liberal provision, at the approaching session of Congress?

According to our best information on this subject, the reduction referred to, was in pursuance of a desire on the part of the post-office Committee of the last session, to reduce as much as possible, the expenses of the Post-Office Department, without, however, intending any injustice or hardship toward the very useful and indispensable class of officers interested in the hurry and confusion of the last days of the session, the proposed reduction could hardly have received that thoughtful consideration of the important and arduous duties imposed upon Route Agents generally, which under more favorable circumstances, the subject would doubtless have received, and perhaps with different results.

The Hon. Mr. CULFAX, the Chairman of the House Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads, still holds that responsible position, and any petitions and representations on the subject, sent to him, through the Postmaster General, would doubtless receive a candid and attentive consideration. [Ed. Mail.]

REGISTERED LETTERS.—A correspondent asks us if we intended the paragraph in our first issue stating the fact that the Hartford, (Ct.) post-office had mailed 7000 registered letters, only six of which had been reported as lost—"franked." If we did not, he asks further, why we do not point to the Adams' and other "Express Companies" who have received at their offices two times the number of letters without one miscarriage." He continues:

"To those who are so ignorant as to suppose that registering and paying the extra expense to the Department for so doing, implies a responsibility by said Department, it is scarcely better than a swindle."

We answer that our allusion to the Hartford office, was not "ironical."

It is not true that Adams' and other Express Companies carry "ten times the number of letters" that are registered and go by mail. The Expresses engage in no such wholesale violations of the law. Nor if they did, would they undertake to carry a single letter to the remotest part of the continent, and to obscure and almost unknown settlements, for a few pennies, as the government is often compelled to do.

That the "Department" does not make good losses by mail, is the fault of Congress. If it did undertake this, however, it would often have to pay for the dishonesty of persons in no way under its control, for our indignant correspondent must bear in mind that the losses of which he speaks are too often traced to the agents of the losers, even in cases of registered letters. He may not know the fact, but there are plenty of publishers and business men who do.

As to the "ignorance" concerning the registry law, of which our friend speaks, whose fault is that? Is it not quite as easy to get at the post-office laws and stipulations, as to find out the practices and responsibilities of private Expresses?

Public Documents.

It is claimed that the general disfavor with which the class of mail matter is looked upon by those engaged in the mail service, has led to a want of care and attention with which other mailable packages are treated.

A dead-beat passenger on a rail-road, is looked upon by his fellow travellers around him, as he pulls out his "paws," as a somewhat suspicious character, and various are the secret speculations as to who he may be, and by what influences he is enabled to slip along without the annoyance of calling at the "Captain's Office." And if he assumes airs, spits on the floor, or occupies two seats, or scolds the conductor for much or too little fare, he is hardly to be tolerated, while had he given the usual *quid pro quo* for his ride, he might perhaps have done either or all these things with impunity.

So it may be with "Pub Docs." This belief that they pay nothing to the revenue—directly at least—and that they are clumsy and troublesome "dead-ends," brings them into disrepute, and perhaps too often causes harsh comments and neglect.

But it should be borne in mind that they are transported by authority of law, as much as any of the more profitable and paying contents of the mails. And while they are legally in the mail, they are to be respected and treated, so far as care and dispatch are concerned, the same as other articles committed to the agency of the post-office.

MISDIRECTED LETTERS.—Over fifty letters per week, arrive at the New York post-office, addressed to prominent firms belonging to other cities, but misdirected here. This is independent of stray Bank Letters, over a thousand a year of which arrive here as before stated.

By an exchange of lists of advertised letters, with other large post-offices, a clerk in the New York post-office, a part of whose duty it is to carefully inspect those lists, writes for such letters as belong to New York merchants.

The number of misdirected letters to individuals not sufficiently well known to render the above process of recovery applicable, can only be determined by closely observing the opening clerks at the Dead Letter Office at Washington.

WE trust no one will be prevented from subscribing for our paper, by the clause in one of the post-office laws, which makes it a felony to "take the MAIL." It is held by the United States Courts, that in order to constitute the offense, the taking must be a "clandestine" taking, so that it is clear that to those who openly order the MAIL, and pay for it, the aforesaid statute does not apply.

Post Office Department.

A. N. ZEVELY, THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL, has charge of what is designated the Financial Office, assisted by 31 clerks besides messengers and laborers, some of whom act as clerks. He enforces the prompt rendition of the quarterly accounts of Postmasters, and refers them to the Auditor of the Department for examination and adjustment. All Dead Letters are under his supervision. He directs the preparation of Warrants and Drafts in payment of balances reported by the Auditor to be due to mail-contractors and others, and thus disposes over two-thirds of the entire revenue of the Department, besides the whole amount of grants from the United States Treasury in aid of the post-office revenues. Summary cash accounts are kept with United States Depositories, 29 other Depositories (in post-office), 812 Draft Offices, and 993 Depositing Offices, showing the amount of money received, and the amount drawn for; and the final adjustment of balances as made by the Auditor, according to law.

The distribution of postage stamps and stamped envelopes is also under the supervision of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, involving the examination, during the last fiscal year, of about 80,000 orders, on which stamped envelopes to the amount of \$6,870,316 19 were issued.

The disbursements of the office during the last year were \$13,635,098 85, requiring about 21,000 Drafts and Warrants. The amount of labor connected with the Dead Letter Office may be faintly imagined from the statement that the accounts from over 28,000 post-offices must be handled every quarter—making a bulk of over 1,000,000 sheets, and the post-halls alone weighing between 40,000 and 50,000 pounds. The Dead Letters numbering 500,000 a quarter, must all be carefully opened and examined, and last year 21,000 were registered and returned to the owners.

The Inspection Office—virtually the police division—managed by B. N. CLEMENTS, Esq., the Chief Clerk of the Department, assisted by nineteen clerks, examines and notes the periodical and occasional reports of postmasters touching the performance of the mail contractors, prepares and submits to the Postmaster General, for his decision, all papers in regard to fines, and deductions from their payment; conducts the correspondence growing out of depositions on the mails, and superintends the issue of mail bags, locks and keys. The duties of this branch are less imposing and responsible than either of the others; yet involve a great amount of investigation and labor indispensable to the due oversight and efficient control of the service.

The deputation portion of its superintendence, under the immediate supervision of THOMAS P. TROTTER, Esq., includes a very useful and delicate class of duties. Its mail bag, and lock-and-key duty, (which gives constant employment to two clerks) forms an onerous charge. The expenditure for the bags, locks, and keys during the last fiscal year, was about \$82,000.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE.

This great bureau—one of the largest in Washington, and employing 117 clerks,—(of which THOMAS M. TATE, Esq., is the present head) is lodged in the post office building for convenience of reference to the books, papers and officers of the latter. By the law of 1836 it was made the duty of this functionary to audit and settle all accounts against the Post Office Department; to certify to the Postmaster General all balances found to be owing; to keep and preserve such accounts, with the vouchers, after settlement; to report to him all delinquencies of postmasters in paying over the net proceeds of their offices; to state quarterly to the Secretary of the Treasury the receipts and expenditures of the Department; and to register, charge and counter sign all warrants upon the Treasury issued by the Postmaster General for receipts and payments. It also authorizes him to superintend the collection of debts due to the establishment, and to institute suits, as well as to take other measures warranted by law for enforcing the prompt payment of such debts. The Auditor being competent to refuse the allowance of credits divvied by the Postmaster General, when, in his opinion, not authorized by law, his bureau may properly be regarded as the judicial branch of the establishment.

Its business is arranged under six divisions; viz: the Examiners, the Pay, the Collection, the Register, the Book Keepers, and the Miscellaneous.

The Examiners' division employs forty-four clerks, who are engaged in examining and connecting the quarterly accounts of the 28,000 deputy postmasters, as well as the foreign mail and extra commission accounts, and in conducting the correspondence connected therewith, including the notifying of postmasters of errors discovered therein. As the footing up of long columns of figures forms a large item in the duty referred to, it is apparent that patience, and a readiness in figures, are important qualifications for a clerkship in this division.

The Pay division, with a force of thirteen clerks, makes quarterly settlements with the contractors, and route and other agents engaged in conveying the mails, and carries on the correspondence connected therewith. Preliminary to this they enter on Registers kept for the purpose, the name and address of each mail contractor, the quarterly amount of his pay, the names of the offices he is to supply, and any orders of the Postmaster General, altering his pay in consequence of changes ordered in the service. Prior to the close of each fiscal quarter they enclose to the contractors collection orders authorizing them to draw from the postmasters on their routes the postage balances in their hands, on the return of the acknowledgments for which, showing the amount so collected, they prepare and send to the Finance Office of the Department a statement of the balance still owing to them, which thereupon returns to the Auditor a draft therefor on some of its depositories, signed by the Postmaster General, to be sent such contractors by this division, after being countersigned by the former officer. Thus effecting a complete quarterly settlement with them, as well as with the postmasters drawn on.

The province of the Collection division, embracing eighteen clerks, is the settlement of the accounts of ex-postmasters. No sooner does death, resignation, or removal vacate the place

of a postmaster, than his account is turned over to this branch for settlement. With a view to prevent the accumulation of postages in the hands of postmasters still in office, it furnishes, also, when called on, statements of their account. A heavy correspondence connected with the closing up of such accounts falls upon this division.

The duty of the Register branch, employing twelve clerks, is to note under appropriate heads, in books duly prepared therefor, the principal items of charge contained in the quarterly accounts of the deputy postmasters on being handed over to them by the Examiners. These registers are then passed to the bookkeeper's division—embracing fourteen clerks—located in a magnificent room occupying the entire centre of the third story, studded with majestic columns supporting the roof, and lit by skylight windows. It is the duty of this division to state in about forty of the largest sized ledgers, the final balances of the postmasters, and the annual accounts of the mail contractors, route agents, mail messengers, and other agents of the Department. It keeps also the general accounts of the establishment, showing the gross amount of foreign and other postages, the annual statistics of fines, etc.; and furnishes information in regard to the finances of the Department, in answer to calls of the Postmaster General, the Auditor and Congress.

The Miscellaneous division, embracing fourteen clerks, is mainly engaged in conducting suits against defaulting postmasters and contractors. It also settles special accounts, and records all of the correspondence of the office.

The frequent changes in the commissions of Postmasters, and rates of postage authorized by the acts of Congress within the last fifteen years, has tended materially to enlarge the labors of this important bureau.

LONDON POST-OFFICE.—Those who have heard so much about the perfection of the English postal arrangement, will be not a little surprised at the following remarks copied from the London Times:—

"How near G. O'clock, and letters are coming in by thousands through the apartments of the letter boxes, into a deep trough. A shoot from this place would convey them at once to where the men have to 'fetch' and stamp them, but there is no room for a shoot—the building is not adapted for it, and the expense must not be incurred. The letters, therefore, are got out of the trough by a porter, who sweeps them into baskets with an old carpet broom, and any one who has witnessed the operation, can at once understand how it is that letters are so often found open, or why postage stamps come off in this grinding-up process."

FOREIGN DEAD LETTERS.—Letters from foreign countries, particularly England, France, Germany and the Canada, sent to the Department as "dead," are, under the provisions of postal treaties, returned to the postal departments of those nations, whose authorities reciprocate the courtesy by a similar policy in relation to correspondence from this country lying uncalled for in their post-offices.

GROUNDLESS COMPLAINTS.—Not a few of the reported failures of penny post letters, on investigation, are traced to the carelessness or dishonesty of servants with whom they are left, and the discovery is by no means uncommon, that when money letters have gone to hand safely, the receipt of them is flatly denied. Various motives for this course, will readily suggest themselves to the reader. Sometimes the denial is in order to evade payments which otherwise could not easily be evaded, and in other cases, it is resorted to for the still more dishonest purpose of obtaining a second remittance.

We were not a little amused with the following report made in writing, to one of the New York letter-carriers recently, by a shrewd acquaintance occupying apartments in the same house with another party who had made a great ado about the pretended loss of a letter containing a cash remittance:—

"The woman has received that letter without doubt, because I know she has a good many letters come here, and they have always been delivered to her by me or my family. Now the mystery is, she wants to get rid of paying her rent. She got a letter from another party, and said there was nothing in it, and my wife found out afterwards, that it contained a check for some money. If she don't get any money, I don't know how she fixes up her family so. They look a great deal better than mine do."

These are my remarks about those letters."

NEWSPAPERS.—Many post-office Clerks no doubt think it a very little thing to draw out a newspaper or other publication from his wrapper, or to allow others to do so.

We have already commented freely on the serious consequences and disappointment to a distant subscriber often resulting from the non-receipt even of a newspaper.

The law on this subject, reads as follows:—

If any person employed in any department of the post-office shall improperly detain, delay, embezzle, or destroy any newspaper, or shall permit any other person to do the like, or shall open, or permit any other to open, any mail or packet of newspapers, not directed to the office where he is employed, such offender shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit a sum not exceeding fifty dollars for every such offense.

BOSTON NIGHT TRAIN.—The new arrangement between the Postmaster General and the railroad Companies, by which the mails are to leave New York and Boston at 9 P. M. every evening, by the land route, via New Haven, Hartford and Springfield, went into effect on the 26th ult.

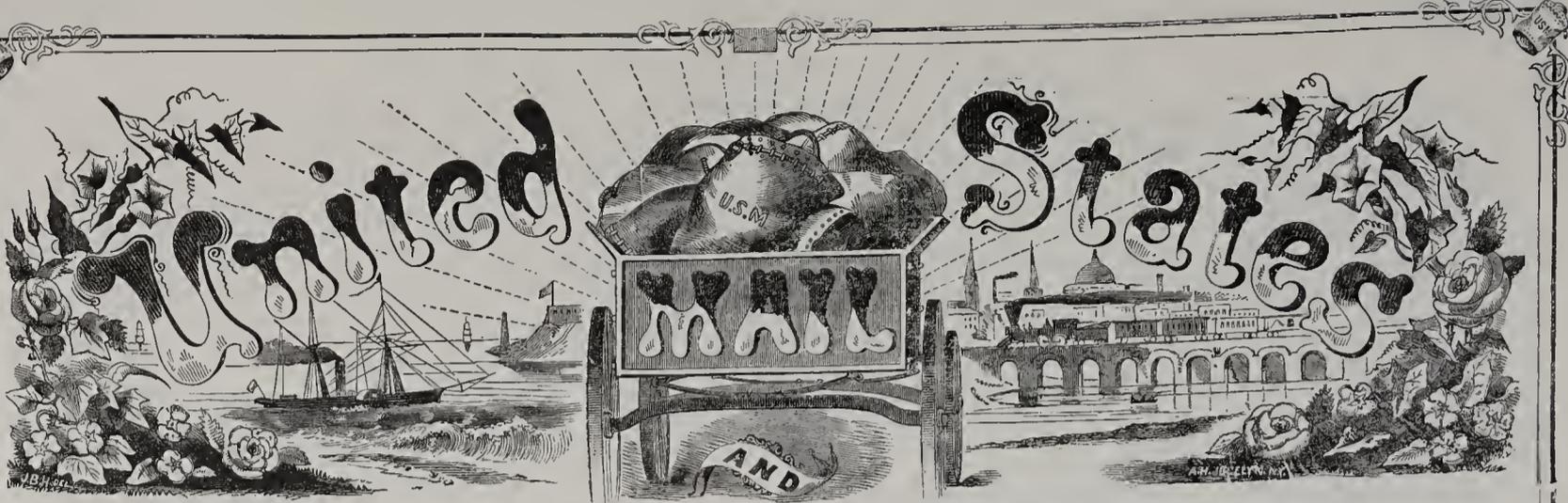
Mails for this train, close at the New York post office, at 6 30 P. M. and at the Boston office at 8 o'clock P. M.

WORCESTER, MASS.—Our notice as to the Hartford post-office, has attracted the attention of our worthy friend Bamister, Postmaster of Worcester, Mass., who writes us that he has "sent and received, during the last year, 10,000 Registered Letters, and only four have failed to reach their proper owners."

(Advertisement.)

POST OFFICE RATING STAMPS

E. S. ZEVELY, Chamberland, Maryland, delivers a good office Stamp, with date changes, for One Dollar. Also other stamps. His stamps have been thoroughly tested for a number of years, and highly approved.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1861.

No. 4.

Whitcomb, the Mail Robber.

The trial of John Whitcomb, whose extensive robbery of the Canada mails, at Rutland, Vt., was noticed in the papers, took place recently, before the U. S. Court at Rutland, Vermont, and resulted in his conviction. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment in the State Prison.

At the time of the robberies, Whitcomb was employed as a night watchman in and about the Rutland depot at Rutland, and it was a part of his duty to take the temporary charge of mails arriving during the night, intended to stop at that point, or be transferred to other trains.

According to the evidence, he must have formed his dishonest plans soon after his engagement in that capacity, suspicious movements not then fully understood, having been noticed by some of his fellow employes. It had been observed that he would occasionally lock himself inside the baggage room after the trains had passed, and on one of these occasions, an associate watchman, applying his own key to the door of the room, passing out the inside key, unlocked the door suddenly, and surprised Whitcomb, who pretended that he was looking after some lost baggage, when he was, no doubt, as subsequent discoveries indicated, engaged in fitting a key to the mail bags.

Whitcomb's robberies, like those of Tuckerman, were no petty operations, but were conducted on a bold and extensive scale. At first he abstracted a Rutland package, selected therefrom a registered letter, and returned the balance of the letters to the bag. Then he took who a pack goes on their way from Canada to Boston, but probably finding but little ready money, he soon increased his chances of gain, by securing and rifling whole mail bags, on their way to York. Some six or eight entire pouches, full, with their contents, (consisting of hundreds of thousands of dollars in drafts, notes, checks, and some money) were thus waylaid and destroyed by this rapacious scamp.

He obtained most of his plunder by boldly stepping upon the trains during their short stops, looking over the mails and throwing off such as he selected, under the pretence that they were for Rutland, or designed to be forwarded from that point over some of the other routes. His well known connection with the railroad service, including the custody of the local mails, served to prevent suspicion on the part of those in charge of the mails.

Some of the circumstances relied upon to convict this wholesale mail depraver, were most remarkable, as showing the strange fatality which so often attends the efforts of the guilty, to cover up and obliterate the evidences of their crimes.

A mail bag once in Whitcomb's possession, the next thing to be considered was, how to dispose of it and its contents, so as to avoid suspicion and discovery, after cutting from the letters whatever could be made available. To bury the bags and mutilate the letters, would be unsafe, as he might be observed while performing the act. To secret them about the railroad premises would be still more hazardous, to submerge them in the neighboring pond was a scheme equally fraught with danger, at least as far as its execution and the possible speedy discovery of the articles themselves, were concerned.

"Burn 'em," naturally whispered the satanic inspirer of his crimes.

"You've hit it now," quoth the puzzled desperado, "and burn them I will. Thank you, Mr. Devil! I knew you'd see me well out of this trifling little affair. Uncle Sam and his agents and the Canada officials may whistle for their proof, when the annihilating flames have done their work!"

The absence from home of Whitcomb's wife, furnished the desired opportunity for the burning process, and as of en as he would make a "haul," he might have been seen wending his way homeward about daybreak, with the previous night's robbery.

A little girl employed in his family to "mind the baby," constituted at this time the only member of his household besides himself. She was young, quite too young as her dishonest master thought, to notice his movements about the house, and so he gave himself no uneasiness on her account.

The arrest of Whitcomb, however, led nothing to do with what the child saw, but her simple, voluntary statements after he was in custody, led to discoveries of the utmost importance, without which he might not have been

convicted. She stated to those engaged in the investigation, that about the time of the robbery, she had frequently known Whitcomb to remain locked up in the parlor for some time and then come out with "lots of papers of different sizes and colors, which he would put into the kitchen stove." This at once explained the ineffectual searches which had already been made for some traces of the stolen property, and furnished a clue to the probable mode by which the letters and possibly the bags had been disposed of.

It occurred to the officers, that, as in the case of the burning of the remains of the murdered Dr. Parkman, so in this instance, there were some things that would not burn. The material, (cannas) of which most of the missing bags were known to have been composed, could readily be consumed, but the iron staples, brass grommets, the metallic rivets, &c., would, of course, withstand the fiery ordeal, and if found, might constitute confirmations strong as words of holy writ, against the ensnared culprit.

The ashes in the stove were examined, but nothing was discovered. When the place in the cellar where they were usually deposited was searched, it was found quite empty. On inquiring of a person occupying a part of the same house with Whitcomb, it was ascertained that he had recently sold a quantity of ashes to a soapmaker in the town. No time was lost in looking up this, for the time being at least, important individual, who, on being inquired of, not only confirmed the story of the purchase of the ashes, but testified to the accidental finding among them of various articles such as we have mentioned, namely, mail bag staples and rivets. The cartons in which they were discovered should not be omitted here. He stated that the barrels containing the ashes which he took from Whitcomb's house, being open at the top, were placed in the front part of his wagon, and as he was standing beside them, driving his horse with his right hand, his left was mechanically employed in sifting the ashes through his fingers, when he felt some hard substance, which, on examination, proved to be a large mail bag "buckle," as he called it. This led to a further sifting with the left hand, when quite a number of rivets were fished up and brought to light. The articles thus found bore unmistakable evidence of having been "tried as by fire," and the testimony of this witness was highly material to the prosecution.

A similar discovery of a quantity of charred mail bag trimmings was made about the same time in the chimney of a machine shop in the process of erection at the time of the robberies. This building being situated far below the grade of the road, and the chimney not then having reached its intended height, its top was brought nearly on a level with, and close to the path traveled by Whitcomb to and from his residence. Into this hiding place he had thrown a large number of the indistinguishable and troublesome witnesses, after they had been taken from the stove. Little did he imagine that they were so soon to return to confront him and aid in establishing his guilt. But so it was. A horizontal damper filling the entire space had been placed about midway in the chimney, and on examining this one day, preparatory to the commencement of operations, the damper was pulled open, when down came an entire assortment of mail bag trimmings, duplicated many times. They were collected together by the finder, who had heard of the robbery and the arrest, and also told a terrible story against the accused, on the trial.

Post-Master General's Report.

One of the clearest and ablest public documents ever issued from any of the Departments at Washington, is the late interesting Report of Post-Master General Horner. We could not, with our limited space give it to our readers entire, but we shall copy those parts referring to such branches of the Mail service, as we deem especially important and practical.

On the 30th of June last, there were in operation 8,502 mail routes. The number of contractors was 7,445. The length of these routes is estimated at 240,594 miles, divided as follows:

Railroad	27,129
Steamboat	14,976
Coach	64,577
Coach	143,912
Inferior modes	27,129

The total annual transportation of mails was 74,724,776 miles, costing \$8,808,710, and divided as follows, viz:

Railroad	27,653,749 miles, at \$3,349,662, about 12 1/2 cents a mile.
Steamboat	3,951,268 miles, at \$1,073,352, about 26 2/3 cents a mile.

Coach 18,653,161 miles, at \$2,550,365, about 13 2/3 cents a mile.
 Inferior modes 24,466,598 miles, at \$1,814,831, about 7 1/4 cents a mile.
 Compared with the service reported June 30, 1850, there is a decrease of 19,458 miles in the length of mail routes: of 7,583,626 miles in the annual transportation, about 9 2/3 per cent.; and of \$660,047 in the cost, about 7 per cent.
 The aggregate length of railroad routes has been increased 1,119 miles, and the annual transportation thereon 1,465 miles, about 1 1/4 per cent., at a cost of \$105,688, or 3 2/3 per cent.
 The length of steamboat routes is diminished 4,233 miles; the annual transportation 615,694 miles, about 13 3/5 per cent.; and the cost \$83,991, about 7 2/5 per cent.
 The length of coach routes is decreased 8,464 miles; 4,795,237 miles in annual transportation, about 9 4/5 per cent.; and in cost \$98,015, or 5 1/2 per cent.
 On the 30th of June last, there were in the service 474 route agents, 40 local agents, 1,649 mail messengers, 68 railroad baggage-masters in charge of the express mails.
 Whole number of post offices in the United States on the 30th of June, 1859, 28,539.
 Number established during the year ending June 30, 1860, 1,140.
 Number discontinued during the same period, 1,181.
 Making a decrease during the year of 41.
 Whole number of post offices on the 30th of June, 1860, 28,498.
 Number of post offices of which the names and sites were changed, 375.
 The number of postmasters who have been appointed during the year ending June 30, 1860, is 6,555. Of these 4,214 were to fill vacancies occasioned by resignations, 685 by removals, 267 by deaths, 249 by changes of name and sites, and 1,140 by the establishment of new offices.
 The number of post offices at present subject to appointment by the President of the United States is 4,433.
 The increase of business in this department, from the commencement of the government, indicates the growth of our country in a striking manner. At its formation, in 1789, there were but 73 post offices in operation; in 1830, there were 903; in 1840, 2,500; in 1851, 4,500; in 1850, 8,450; in 1854, 13,468; in 1859, 18,417; and in 1860, 28,498.
 Reference is made to the accompanying very lucid report of the Sixth Auditor, for the details of the financial operations of this department during the past fiscal year. From this interesting document I derive the following synopsis:
 The expenditures of the department in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, amounted to \$13,170,639.95.
 The gross revenue for the year 1860, including receipts from letter carriers and from foreign postages, amounted to \$8,518,067.40. Being an increase of near seven per cent, over the revenue of the year ending June 30, 1859.
 POSTAGE STAMPS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES.
 The number of postage stamps supplied to postmasters during the year ended June 30, 1860, was 21,577,699; value \$8,22,939.00.
 Stamped envelopes, 29,284,925; value \$949,377.10.
 Total amount for 1860, \$9,178,316.10.
 Total value of postage stamps and stamped envelopes issued during the year ended June 30, 1859, \$8,261,533.34.
 Increase during 1860, \$906,782.85.
 Large quantities of postage stamps have been adopted and introduced, especially for the purpose of affording requisite facilities to prepay the postage on letters to foreign countries, and removing all excuses heretofore existing for paying such postages in money. The new denominations are twenty-four cents, thirty cents, and ninety cents.
 A new die for embossing the stamp on the postage-stamped envelope has been adopted, which is believed to be an improvement on the former one, especially because of its reduced size, giving a neater and more attractive appearance to the envelope.
 There has also been introduced a novel description of stamped envelopes, embracing what is called the "self-folding improvement," consisting of black lines so arranged within the envelope as to afford a correct guide for writing the address of a letter, but which lines are concealed after placing the letter in the envelope. Of these envelopes there have been issued up to November 1, 3,442,150.
 It is contemplated to introduce immediately two new denominations of envelopes: one embossed with a one-cent stamp, the other with both the one and the three-cent stamps.
 The one-cent envelope is designed mainly for circulars, of which many millions are annually distributed through the mails. The same envelope, however, will also be largely used for city correspondence.
 The envelope with the one-cent and three-cent stamps will be required in cities where there are lamp-post letter-boxes or other deposit boxes for letters, to be conveyed by carriers to the post-offices, the one-cent paying the carrier's fee, and the other stamp paying the postage on letters to be sent out of the city by mail. This envelope will also be used by those who, when addressing their city correspondents, desire to relieve them from the payment of the carrier's fee for delivering their letters at their domicile.
 Proposals were made during the last session

of Congress to furnish the department with wrappers or envelopes embossed with one-cent postage stamps, for the purpose of prepaying transient newspapers, and the subject was considered by the Committee on the Post-Office and Post Roads. Recently, similar proposals (from another party) have been made, with the suggestion that not merely one-cent, but also two-cent newspaper wrappers, be provided; and I recommend the subject for such disposition as Congress may deem necessary.

DEAD LETTERS.—The number of dead letters containing money, registered and sent out during the year ended 30th June last, was 10,450. The number containing other articles of value, 13,585. Total, 24,035; being 5,062 increase on the work of 1859.

In addition, there have been sent out, since April last, 6,982 other letters, of a class which were heretofore either destroyed or filed, not containing inclosures of sufficient absolute value to justify their registration; making whole number sent out, 31,017, or 12,644 more than during the previous year.

FOREIGN LETTERS.—Returned to England, 41,835; France, 13,410; Bremen, 6,178; Hamburg, 2,517; Prussia, 17,317; Canada, 25,830; Nova Scotia, 2,041; Nova Scotia, 1,693; Prince Edward's Island, 130. Number of foreign letters, 110,611.

Persuading efforts have been made, so far as the limited number of clerks would permit, to find the true causes for the non delivery especially of valuable letters, and the result has been to confirm the former experience of the department, as stated in my annual report of last year and my special report of 7th May last. For example, out of 8,002 cases, in which the inquiries of the department have been answered, or where causes were patent without inquiry, 3,983 letters were misdirected, 621 illegibly directed, 583 directed to transient persons, 336 to persons moved away, 657 not mailed for want of postage, 885 directed to fictitious persons or firms, 54 without any address or direction, 34 misread, leaving, out of 8,002, only 1,341 letters properly addressed, and only 634 for the non delivery of which the department is blameable, 667 having become dead because not prepaid.

In reference to the class of letters not containing money or other valuable inclosures, a similar state of facts seems to exist. The number returned to the dead letter office for want of postage during the past seven months, to November 1, was 22,258.
 Out of 37,868 letters without inclosures, the number for want of proper direction was 10,178. Number entirely without address or direction, 357. Total, 10,535.

Although the number of letters conveyed by mail during the last year has increased by many millions, (as shown by the increased returns of over \$500,000,) yet the whole number of dead letters, so far from increasing, has rather diminished. From this fact, it may be concluded that better attention than formerly is now given to the delivery of letters, and that the new regulations on the subject have had a salutary effect.

The dead letters, which number over 500,000 a quarter, are carefully opened, and those with inclosures of value registered and returned to the owners.
 The labor connected with the accounts and dead letters has increased over fifty per cent within ten years. Ten thousand new post offices have been established, and the number of valuable dead letters sent out has increased from 16,000 to 24,000 annually.

The branch of business, however, which has most rapidly grown is that connected with the postage stamps and stamped envelopes.
 The use of stamps commenced in 1847, and between 1st July of that year and 30th June, 1851, there were issued 81,000 of the ten cent denomination and 3,712,240 of the five cent denomination, equal to \$274,710.
 Under the act of 31 March, 1851, reducing postage and favoring prepayment, the issues were, for the year ended 30th June, 1852:—5,062,410 1-cent, 45,987,240 3-cent, 137,790 12-cent, equal to \$1,446,170.

For the year ending 30th June last, there were issued 24,723,400 1-cent stamps, 13,443,000 3-cent, 370,360 5-cent, 3,898,450 10-cent, 1,633,500 12-cent, 62,330 24-cent, equal to \$5,320,939. Stamped envelopes were introduced in 1859, and the issues during the last year amounted to \$949,377.10. Total of postage stamps and stamped envelopes, \$6,270,316.10; being an increase in eight years of \$5,424,146.10.

FOREIGN MAIL SERVICE.—The number of letters and newspapers exchanged with Europe was as follows: Letters sent from the United States, 3,093,391; received from Europe, 3,072,979; total, 6,166,369. Newspapers sent, 2,127,870; newspapers received, 1,338,207; total, 3,466,077.

The amount of letter postages upon mails exchanged with Great Britain was \$788,431 61; with Prussia, \$235,469 20; with France, \$225,802 78; Bremen, \$35,810 21; Hamburg, \$34,133 52; and Belgium, \$3,734 93; being an increase on British mails of \$18,345 61; on French mails of \$11,032 73; on Hamburg mails of \$10,551 57; and a decrease on Prussian mails of \$3,173 48, and on Bremen mails of \$2,558 16, as compared with the previous year. (The exchange of mails with Belgium commenced on the 24th of January, 1860.) Total increased letter postages on European mails, \$37,953 20.

I have the satisfaction of announcing that a liberal and advantageous postal treaty has been concluded with His Majesty the King of the Belgians, through His Excellency, Mr. Blondel Van Cuelenbroeck, Envoy extraordinary and Minister plenipotentiary, the ratifications of which have been regularly exchanged. A copy of this treaty, which bears date the 21st December, 1859, accompanies this report.

Some further correspondence has taken place between this department and the British post office on the subject of a reduction of postage upon international letters, but as yet without any satisfactory result.

The following table of Postages received from and expenditures made upon these several routes will indicate the postal value of each during the last year:

Route	Expenditure	Receipts
1. From N. Y. to San Francisco	\$50,000 00	\$170,835 00
2. Overland via St. Louis	100,000 00	110,700 00
3. St. Joseph to Salt Lake City	125,000 00	4,200 70
4. Salt Lake City to Placerville	18,441 00	578 50
5. St. Antonio to El Paso	70,000 00	699 41

MAIL BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BOSTON.
 The value and despatch of a postal communication between these large commercial cities, at a later hour of the day than has hitherto existed, has long been apparent to the department, but various difficulties have intervened to prevent its attainment. All the lines connecting the two cities are composed of three and four distinct companies, deriving their charters from as many different States, and having each its own interests and local purposes to advance. Recent negotiations, however, have resulted in arrangements for an interior night train, leaving New York at 8 p. m., and running through New Haven, Hartford, Springfield, and Worcester, reaching Boston in not more than nine hours, and returning from Boston to New York at similar hours. In this manner, correspondence prepared in either city in the class of the latest business hours is taken through and delivered at an early hour of the succeeding morning. A contract is also made at New York with the morning mail from the South—which is thus expedited some thirteen hours—so that letters (and passengers) leaving Washington in the morning, arrive at Boston in less than twenty-three hours, and from Baltimore in about twenty-one hours; conversely, correspondence leaving Boston at eight o'clock one evening, is received and delivered at Washington before the same hour the next evening. The arrangement is for three months only, it being an experiment, to result in a permanent organization, should it prove successful as a postal measure and remunerative to the contractors as a passenger-conveyance.

We shall give further extracts from the Report in our next.

ODD SUPERSTITIONS.—We give below a few more amusing addresses observed upon letters passing through the mails:—
 As I'm directed rather queer,
 And look so mighty knowing,
 It may be you would like to know,
 To Ireland and where I'm going,
 To SAMUEL JONES, WEST NEWTON, MASS.,
 I'm sent and shall not fail,
 For I've implicit confidence
 To Uncle Samuel's mail.

Pls. s- Uncle Sam, dotake me in a trice,
 I'm Van Hise Reed & Davison Van Hise,
 In Jersey, near New Brunswick, but beyond,
 Near a small vil age that is called Fresh Pond,
 I am not certain, but I rather guess,
 That James Wray is their Post office address,
 But any how leave me there, and no doubt,
 One of them very soon will take me out.

John A. Dix, I'm in a fix,
 I can't find SAMUEL BRACHIM,
 I'm sending this to NATCHES, MISS,
 In hopes that there it will reach him.

For JOHN R. WELLS, this letter is,
 Who in New York sets his lumber,
 To West Street then please let it fit,
 For NINETY-TWO'S the number.

This letter to be forward d to Mrs. Catharine Harrington, and a read it for her.
 [Rather an unwarrentable advertisement of Mrs. Harrington's ignorance.]

John Fitzpatrick,
 New Orleans Chicago,
 Michigan Boston.

Miss Healey, 385 Water Street,
 For New York, For John Griffin and if John Griffin is not there give this letter to Pat Maloney and to open it and to give his account when he got the letter.

To Russell McDonald, the greatest of wags,
 Who lives at the house called Hotel de Bagges,
 In Detroit, Michigan, so we have all heard,
 On Jefferson Avenue corner of Third.
 This Russell McDonald—so his customers tell,
 Knows just like a "notch" how to keep a Ho-
 tel,
 If he don't like this letter he knows very well,
 He can read it, and burn it, and call it a seal.

I have the satisfaction of announcing that a

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1861.

TERMS—The dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York. Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents, if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

The Telegraph and the Post Office.

Telegraph companies should have for the device of their official seals, that immortal reptile of gastronomic and scientific reputation whose laudable extremities have furnished material for the delicate manipulations of a Soyer and with the help of Galvani, have brought to light a science in whose name his memory is enshrined, and which has conferred upon man almost unlimited power over space and time. The Egyptians had their ibis, the Brahmans their sacred cow, and the Americans have their eagle, but the frog is pre-eminent above them all. He should be the presiding genius of the scientific world. It is not of frogs, however, that we intend to speak, but of some things relating to those great media for the transmission of intelligence, the Electric Telegraph and the Post Office.

Franklin was our first Post-Master General, and, as every one knows, the first conductor of a lightning train. He, however, was unable to make the electric agent talk, except in a snip-pish sort of a way, which, notwithstanding, served to answer very satisfactorily certain questions which he propounded. Even his far-seeing intellect, which could see the infant science growing into manly stature, did not anticipate the wonderful results which were to follow from the discovery of another form of the subtle power whose properties he had in part revealed. Had he been gifted with prophetic vision, he might perhaps have complacently chuckled as he saw the mail-carriers of a century later, who looked back with contempt upon his slow-going coaches and wagons, themselves discomfited by the appearance upon the stage of his swift-footed Park, who could "put a circle round about the earth, in forty minutes," and thereby set at naught all their futile efforts at competition.

The Post-Master General estimates the number of letters lost to the Department by the establishment of telegraphic communication, at one million a year. This is formidable rivalry, which may become even more powerful in time to come, as the lines are multiplied and extended, and improved methods of operating bring their use more within the reach of the multitude.

Yet, the Telegraph can never entirely supplant the Post Office. Although it can transmit news, it can carry newspapers, and the confidential intercourse of love and friendship will hardly be committed to the charge of telegraphic operators, for not only would this involve an unpleasant publicity, but mistakes of a provoking, if not a serious nature, might sometimes occur. We can fancy an ardent lover "popping the question" through the medium of the wires, and receiving an unwelcome "No" instead of the hoped-for "Yes," all in consequence of the misreading or the misinterpreting of the message. Or the opposite mistake might occur, with results embarrassing to the lady, and mortifying to the gentleman.

It would seem, then, that the operations of the telegraph must ever be confined to matters of business or general convenience, and that the Post Office is in no danger of being superseded by this great time-annihilator.

Post Office Petitions.

A correspondent, over the signature of "Enquirer," asks us to inform him what course petitions for office, sent to the Post-Master General, take.

If in a facetious mood, we might answer that a great many of them don't "take" at all!

But, as we infer that our friend is serious in seeking this information, we will inform him that when such petitions are received at the Department, unless there is necessity for immediate action, they are placed on file in the corresponding bureau of the New York, New England, or other division embracing the office applied for. The clerk, to whom they are referred, at once prepares a "brief," placing it upon the outside of the papers, and setting forth the material points in the case, with a list of the names of the principal petitioners or remonstrants, so that when it is called up for examination or final action, the Post-Master General and his First Assistant can, without wandering through the superfluous and collateral matters which a majority of these applications contain, get at the gist of the "case" at once.

Not infrequently, the influences pro and con are so evenly balanced that a decision satisfactory to the head of the Department, becomes a difficult and exceedingly vexatious duty. And instances are not rare where, on that account the applicants are all discarded, and the appointment given to some individual who had not been counted in the ring at all. In fact, the indications are some times pretty clear that the candidate who is finally successful, had first set to work to produce just that confused and complicated state of affairs, in order, at the right time, to step into the troubled waters himself, and be made clean by the help of a lucrative office.

The course of petitions for post offices heretofore described, refers more particularly to appoint-

ments where the emoluments are less than \$1000 per year. All paying to the incumbent over that sum, of which there are 433 only, out of the 28,498 post offices, are called Presidential appointments, and come directly under the eye of the President when finally decided. Though the papers in these cases are also originally filed in the Department, are there "briefed" and remain until called for by the President. They are usually examined and passed upon in consultation with the Post-Master General, and sometimes the entire Cabinet. All this class of appointments of course require confirmation by the Senate.

Complaints.

We are far from assuming the position of apologists for any real abuses, negligence, or want of proper enterprise which may occur in the management of the great Department with which we are connected. But we are desirous of defending the postal system, and those engaged in carrying out its complicated details, against unjust complaints and wholesale gratuitous assaults, which, in order to be shown destitute of any foundation whatever, have only to be impartially investigated.

To those who soberly reflect upon the vast interests, affecting all classes, involved in the mail service of this country, it is painful to witness the willingness, particularly of the city newspaper press, to give place in their columns to all sorts of fault-finding and censure against the post-office, without stopping to inquire into either the truth of the complaints or the motives in which they originated.

That there are real cases of hardship and sad disappointment occasionally, resulting from negligence, stupidity, incompetency, and dishonesty in the post-office, our own long observation will not permit us to deny. Nor can we ever expect to enjoy immunity from these things, where official responsibilities like these are divided among an army of one hundred thousand individuals, selected and appointed in the mode established, insisted upon and persevered in by all political parties in this country.

But we do not propose to argue this question at length. We have nothing to do with the political aspect of this question.

The exclusive management of the post-office has been conferred upon our government by the constitution, and it would seem to be the duty of all good citizens, including all good editors, to encourage and strengthen the hands of those upon whom this important trust has devolved, and to promote public confidence in the post-office, rather than distrust and an unkindly, fault-finding spirit.

The truth is, the greatest share of the mistakes so recklessly hurled at the post-office should be named (if they must be discharged) at the devoted heads of our national law-makers, or in a large majority of complaints having any foundation, the fault is with the laws, and not with those called to execute them.

There is danger that this too general disposition on the part of the press to sneer at and censure the post office, will so far lessen its influence, dignity and safety, that the consequences will recoil upon the heads of its assailants, in common with others, who, until the P. O. Department is effectually broken down, will be compelled to rely upon it largely in their business and social transactions.

The effects of this constant dripping of newspaper and individual undue prejudice upon the post office are already beginning to appear in ways which it would hardly be politic or profitable to mention here.

Just and truthful complaints, preferred in the right quarter, should not be withheld, but baseless and selfish grumblings should not be seized upon and publicly circulated to the detriment of a branch of the public service which we are not yet quite ready to abandon.

FORGONE A REGISTRY RECEIPT.—One of the boldest games of which we have ever heard, with the intent to fix suspicion and dishonesty upon the post-office, was recently tried by one H. M. Terrell, of Norwalk, Conn.

Some weeks since, Terrell wrote to Messrs McKenney & Co., lottery dealers in Savannah, Georgia, informing them that on a certain day he deposited in the Norwalk post-office a letter to their address, containing the sum of \$20, with an order for that amount of lottery tickets, and demanding to know why the tickets had not been sent. The firm replied that they had seen nothing of his letter or money. Thereupon our Connecticut adventurer returned them a sharp reply, to the effect that the money had not only been sent in good faith, but in compliance with their published rules, namely, that when cash orders for tickets are registered, they are at their (the firm's) risk, and if lost, the "goods" will nevertheless be forwarded. "I went to the Fairfield County Bank," continued Terrell, "got a \$20 bill, enclosed it, and had the letter registered, and now inclose the postmaster's receipt." Sure enough there was the regular printed form of a registry receipt, filled up in due shape, with the name of the Norwalk postmaster affixed.

Soon after, another letter followed, giving further evidence of the mailing of the original money letter, in the shape of a certificate of a well known citizen of Norwalk setting forth that he was with Terrell when he obtained and forwarded the \$20.

All this appeared regular, still, from some cause, the Savannah postmaster, who was applied to and examined the correspondence, inclosed all the papers, including the receipt, to the Norwalk postmaster. The latter document was at once pronounced a forgery, which fact was further confirmed by a reference to the registry books. They were dumb as to any such entry or the registration of any such letter. How Terrell obtained the printed form was a great mystery, as he had never been seen inside the office.

The whole matter was kept quiet for the time being, and placed in the hands of the Special Agent of the P. O. Department, who being de-

sirous of getting the handwriting of Terrell, in order to be sure that some other party had not used his name, wrote him, alluding to the reported loss of a money letter posted by him, asking for all the particulars, and so far as it would do, sympathizing with him in his reported misfortune. To this Terrell promptly responded, but instead of alluding to the registry receipt, said he dropped the letter into the office without calling the attention of any one thereto. The writing was identical with that of the other correspondence, and of course fastened the guilt of the fraud and double forgery upon him.

On the 21st instant Terrell was arrested and placed in the hands of the deputy sheriff at Norwalk. When the P. O. Agent left there, the office was working about with his prisoner in pursuit of bail.

On the following morning a telegraphic despatch was received from Norwalk as follows: "Sir: Terrell escaped last night from the sheriff."

This has another ingenious attempt to cast alarm and distrust upon the P. O. Department seen exposed and frustrated.

Even if the author of this criminal plot should finally go unwhipped of justice, the character of those sought to be involved, has been fully and clearly vindicated.

Cost of the Mail Service.

A correspondent asks us what is the entire cost of the mail service in the State of South Carolina, per annum. Also what is the amount of revenue received per annum by the Government, from postages in that State.

The entire cost of this service in South Carolina, for the year ending June 30th, 1860, was \$254,835.59. Receipts \$113,675.92. Expenditures or receipts, \$140,409.67.

While we are on this subject, we will add, that during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1860, there were but seven States and District of Columbia, in the Union, the postal expenses of which did not exceed the receipts paid to the Government.

Massachusetts cost \$49,820.35, and paid \$42,955.48. Excess of receipts over expenditures \$18,212.13.

Rhode Island cost \$43,944.40. Paid \$69,057.90. Profit to the Department, \$25,113.50.

New Hampshire cost \$109,411.41, and paid \$111,076.28. Excess of receipts, \$1,664.87.

Connecticut cost \$204,195.55, and paid \$207,941.20. Profit, \$3,745.65.

New York cost \$1,176,230.31. Paid \$1,681,439.09. Excess of receipts, \$504,908.78.

Delaware cost \$34,110.56, and paid \$48,130.43. Excess of receipts, \$14,019.87.

District of Columbia cost \$40,026.88. Paid \$51,292.01. Excess of receipts, \$11,265.13.

Virginia cost \$530,008.75. Paid \$275,269.49. Excess of expenditures \$255,339.26.

Ohio cost \$812,721.93. Paid \$532,259.06. Excess of expenditure \$280,462.87.

Pennsylvania cost \$630,640.55. Paid \$709,555.78. Excess of receipts, \$77,915.23.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.—We are requested by a Postmaster who has been annoyed by a want of "outside" knowledge on the subject, to call special attention to a rule of the P. O. Department, regarding the payment of newspaper postage. Regular subscribers, are required to pay at least a quarter's postage in advance. If a paper laps over from one quarter to another, without the necessary pre-payment, the full rates of transient postage must be demanded and paid, unless the whole quarterly payment is promptly made.

A Relic of the "Hungarian."

Among the many marine disasters of somewhat recent occurrence, our readers will doubtless recollect the total wreck of the steamship Hungarian, which was attended with the loss of all her passengers and crew. Her mails however, were recovered not long after, and sent to the New York post-office, their original place of destination, in a sad condition from their exposure to the water. The contents of the bags were faithfully cared for. They were dried, and all the packages and letters with addresses remaining legible were sent to the places where they were due, giving in their hurried and wrinkled aspect, too faithful evidence of the catastrophe which had overwhelmed so many living beings and spared them alone, witnesses to the reality of the fearful event.

It was a melancholy business, that of sorting over these sea-worn missives. It brought to mind the noble ship which had carried them day after day toward their destined port, the gallant vessel filled with a gay and hopeful throng of human beings, who were borne, at every pulsation of the engine, nearer and nearer to the end of their hopes and their lives. The eyes that beheld the swiftly-passing scenes of that tragedy have all closed in death, and the horrors of those hours will never be revealed "until the deep gives up its dead."

A singular and interesting incident connected with this distressing occurrence came to our knowledge through the medium of a gentleman whose only sister was among the lost. Before leaving England, this young lady had become impressed with a presentiment that she should never accomplish the voyage she was about to undertake. Concealing her misgivings from her friends in England, she indited a letter to her brother just before taking passage, and posted it to go by the steamer which was to carry her. The letter was received by her brother—a precious memorial of its unfortunate writer. Feeling much interested in this singular and melancholy case, we requested a copy of the letter, a part of which we give:

MY DEAR BROTHER:

I have to-day engaged passage in the Hungarian, to sail in a few days, and if we have a safe and prosperous voyage, I hope to relieve you from the labor of deciphering this miserable specimen of penmanship by reading it to you myself, as it will go out in the packet with me. But, my dear Tom, to tell you the truth, I have had some strange feelings about this passage. I don't know why, but I have had

whispers from some strange and unknown source that I should never see my dear friends in the United States again. You will say this is a foolish whim of mine, and I hope it is nothing more. If I ever meet you again, we will have a good laugh over my folly, but I don't feel much like laughing now. These strange, mysterious forebodings haunt me.

"I see a hand you cannot see.

That beckons me away."

I suppose it is weak to indulge such feelings, yet if I had a reasonable excuse to assign to our friends here, I would wait for another steamer. But all my arrangements are made, and my pride forbids me to delay.

Looking over what I have written, I see it must appear absurd to you, and I shall be very willing to be laughed at if my fears are not realized. God keep us both!

Your affectionate sister,

ANNA.

Boston Letter Carrier System.

The Penny Post was organized upon its present system in 1849, Hon. Cave Johnson, P. M. General, and the penny postage was then reduced from 2 cents to 1 cent, at which price it has ever since remained. Prior to that time, there was little system or organization. Carriers selected for themselves such letters as they chose to deliver, and they chose to deliver only such as were easily accessible. They did not serve persons who lived in the extreme parts of the city, remote from the business sections.

There are now twenty-five carriers, an increase of sixteen in ten years.

Average delivery, 300 letters each, per day, besides papers, making 7200 letters delivered daily.

Carriers serve two years at \$500 per annum, after that time their pay is \$300 per year.

Three deliveries per day are made, viz: 7 A. M., 11 A. M., and 3 P. M. Two-thirds of the mailable matter is sent out by the morning delivery.

There is no connection between the Carriers department and the Collectors department. The latter is under the charge of the Mail department of the Post Office.

A debtor and credit account is kept by the Post Office, with the letter carriers. The cash receipts from them are paid daily to the treasurer of the Post Office. If trust is given for postage, it is done at the risk of the carriers themselves. They must bring back the letters or the cash.

Books are kept, in which the carriers are required to enter the names of all letters which they are obliged to return, with reasons for non-delivery.

We will add, that there is no city in the Union where the Carrier or Penny Post system is better managed, or gives more general public satisfaction than that of Boston. It is very seldom that a complaint is made of the loss or delay of a letter, when once it has reached that department.

Exposure of the Mails.

From the frequent instances of neglect of the mails while in transit, it would seem that contractors have entirely overlooked or wilfully neglected the requirements of their contract in this respect. In each of these, fines are imposed for exposing the mail to injury, loss, or degradation.

Very few contractors provide suitable covering for the bags in rainy weather, and especially at railroad stations, where they are likely to arrive in advance of the trains, they are too often left lying upon the platform entirely exposed to the rain or snow.

It is of course the duty of post-masters, on the route, agents and mail messengers, to correct this great evil if possible, and if their remonstrances are disregarded, to report all such cases of neglect to the Chief Clerk of the Department, in order that a proper remedy may be applied by the enforcement of the legal fines.

DANGEROUS MAIL MATTER.—A package was received at the Dead Letter Office lately of such a corrosive nature of acids, &c., as not only to efface its own address and postmarks, but also that of other letters with which it came into contact.

While acids can be made to neutralize one another, there are substances, for instance, phosphorus, which when divested of protection, become inflammable in their character. Others, which by exposure to the air, are readily ignited.

As the instrumentality of the mails was one of the great benefits secured to the people, and to augment the "general welfare" of the community, it is the duty of all those concerned with the mails, to endeavor to ascertain whether anything of an injurious character is conveyed in glass, subject to breakage, or tin or copper that is capable of resisting pressure.

In the instance now referred to it was a small viol of patent paste, which had been broken. Although intended for the removal of corns and warts, the compound seems to be illy calculated for the security of writing, which the mails are chiefly made up. Postmasters cannot exercise too much vigilance in keeping out of the mails such improper and dangerous articles.

MR. EDITOR.—What course is to be pursued with the Editor of a paper, where he has been informed to stop his paper, and he still continues to send it? I do not know how I can write to him again and not say dam it. The facts are these, he is not responsible, nor can you or any person else get any thing out of him in the way of postage on his man sheet. I wish you to suggest what course I am to pursue. Perhaps the Department will have me removed from office, but I ask for information and wish to do my duty to the P. O. Department.

A. — P. M.

ANSWER.—You are not justified in saying "dam it" officially, under any circumstances. As to the moral aspect of the case, ask your village parson.

When a postmaster has duly notified a publisher that his paper is not taken out by the party addressed, he has nothing further to do but let the papers accumulate, if the notice is disregarded, and sell them each quarter and credit the proceeds to the Department. See standing regulations.

COMPLIMENTARY.—A postmaster in Maryland, who, it appears, is an old settler, writes us as follows:

"Sir: On reading your paper, I find that I have much to learn, notwithstanding I have been P. M. here for nearly twenty-seven years, as my appointment bears date the 6th of January, 1834. Consequently I have served under all the Presidents, from General Jackson down on up to Buchanan. Please send on the paper to me, for it will be worth the money to me, whether I am left in office or removed."

CAPITAL IDEA.—The *Delaware Gazette*, speaking of our paper, advances the following suggestion, which, strange as it may appear, meets with our hearty approval:

"If one of these papers was taken by each School District and kept with the Library, where all could have access to it, a great many mistakes and disappointments would be avoided."

ABRUSION OF A DANGEROUS LETTER THIEF.—Amos Leeds was brought before Commissioner Betts, of this city, yesterday, on complaint of the Post-office special agent, charged with the serious offense of having fraudulently obtained valuable letters, at various times, from the New York Post-office.

It appears that suspicion fell upon the accused as the individual who presented Mr. C. A. Hazleton, a merchant doing business in Broadway, and got possession of a registered letter belonging to him, containing a draft, and sent by a correspondent at Lyndon, Vt., on the 9th ult. On the arrival of the letter at the New York post-office, the usual registry notice was issued, and in some way fell into the hands of a dishonest party, who thereupon presented it at the counter of the registry room, received the letter, and signed a receipt, using the name of Charles A. Hazleton. The draft not being available to the rogue, he wrote a letter to the gentleman in Vermont who had sent it, expressing pleasure that the "machinery" (a knitting machine) gave such good satisfaction, and at the same time returning the draft, as subjecting him to too great a "shave," and requesting that "Vermont currency" be sent in lieu thereof. That the strange handwriting might not attract attention, the letter was signed "C. A. Hazleton, per J. D. West."

Our cute Vermont friend, it seems, "smelt a rat," and enclosed the fraudulent letter back to the genuine Hazleton. This led to an investigation at the post-office, and plans were arranged by the post-office agent, which in a few days brought to light the author of the fraud, in the person of Amos Leeds, who was yesterday taken into custody soon after he had called at the office and taken out a letter, as he supposed, with the "Vermont currency," but which proved to be a remittance from the special agent, and which subjected him (the entrapper) to a "shave," even though he had laid to the charge of the unscrupulous original draftsman, who greedily fobbed the welcome contents of this letter, and while unsuspectingly perusing its agreeable lines, he was taken into custody by police officer Blackwood, detailed for duty around the post-office, who had been duly "posted" as well as the stolen letter, and who marched the unfortunate Leeds straight inside the post-office, to the sanction of his friend the agent, who so kindly made him the last of his "mates." He proved to be well known among the delivery clerks as the person who had often applied for letters addressed to C. A. Hazleton, V. D. Young & Co., and others. The registry clerk was called, and he, too, had transacted post-office business with the gentleman.

Leeds' excuse for calling for so many different letters was, that he had been answering miscellaneous advertisements somewhat extensively, and had assumed the above and other names, but that did not explain the request for the "Vermont currency," any farther, perhaps, than that money is too often made the basis of matrimony.

It will be recollected that one James S. Williams was recently seen answering many similar frauds upon the post-office. We hope the effect of this second detection and arrest within a short time will have the proper influence upon this mischievous class, who can find nothing better to do than to prey upon the business and social correspondence of honest people.—N. Y. Herald.

Taxing Officials.

We have been requested to insert the following letter from Gen. Dix, Post-Master of New York, addressed not long since, to an officer of one of the political organizations in this city:

POST OFFICE, N. Y., October, 15, 1860.

To the Democratic Gen'l Committee.

Sir:—I have received your letter soliciting a contribution from myself, and the privilege of assessing the subordinate in my office, to raise funds in aid of the "Union Ticket," and the "coming Presidential election."

In regard to an assessment on the subordinates in this office, I annex extracts from a letter written by me, a few weeks ago, in reply to a similar application from another organization. "I may say of a majority of them, the clerks in this office that the assessment (proposed to be) made on them cannot be paid without pinching their families who are entirely dependent on their salaries."

I cannot consent to be the instrument of wringing from their necessities, means indispensable to their daily support, more-over, that this system of assessing subordinates in public offices for political purposes, when they have for the most part, no more than is sufficient to give their families the common necessities of life, is all wrong. If men of means—lawyers, farmers, merchants, capitalists—whose property has so deep a stake in the maintenance of good government, will not consent to pay the legitimate expenses of our elections, we may as well abandon all hope of keeping up our organization by money.

Let me add that my contributions are made by me as a private citizen, and that I do not recognize the right of any committee to assess me, as a federal officer, for political purposes."

I must refer you to these extracts for an answer to your letter.

I deem it proper to add, that I know nothing more degrading to our public offices and those who fill them, than the practice, which has existed, of sending political tax gatherers to the doors of the pay-room, to levy contributions on the clerks as they emerge with their hard-earned stipends. I cannot allow this office to be so dishonored. I intend, if I can, to restore to the respectability which belonged to the earlier and better days of the Republic.

I shall be pleased to have my subordinates contribute voluntarily, whatever they think they can afford, to the support of the Democratic cause, but I cannot permit any forced contribution to be levied on them. On the contrary, I shall regard it as a duty to protect them from a system of political extortion, disgraceful alike to the government and the country.

I am Sir,

Very respectfully,

JOHN A. DIX, P. M.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is pre-arranged in the letter to be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

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TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.
 * 10 cents when not over 3,000 miles from the line of crossing.
 * 15 cents when distance exceeds 3,000 miles. Prepayment optional.

COUNTRIES.	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Half ounce.	One ounce.	Pamphlets per ounce.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.	Cts.
Aden, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Adriatic, French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Africa (West), British mail	33	39	45	1	25	31	37	43
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do do by British pkt.	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Algeria, French mail	13	19	25	1	9	15	21	27
Altona, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Amoy, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Amoy, British mail, via Southampton	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Argentina, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Ascension, via England	33	39	45	1	25	31	37	43
Aspinwall, for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles	10	15	20	1	6	9	12	15
do do do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	10	15	20	1	6	9	12	15
Australia, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do by private ship from N. York or Boston	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail, via Mar	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do do Hamburg mail, via Mar	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Trieste	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Austria and its States, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Azores, British mail, via Portugal	29	35	41	1	21	27	33	39
Bahia, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Baltimore, by direct steamer from New York	21	27	33	1	15	21	27	33
Batavia, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bavaria, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Belgium, French mail	21	27	33	1	15	21	27	33
do do do via England	33	39	45	1	25	31	37	43
do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do do by British packet	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Belgrade, do do do by Amer. pkt.	21	27	33	1	15	21	27	33
do do do do by British packet	21	27	33	1	15	21	27	33
Berlin, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bordeaux, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Boston, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bremen, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Buenos Aires, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
British North American Provinces, when distance does not exceed 3,000 miles	10	15	20	1	6	9	12	15
do do do when distance exceeds 3,000 miles	10	15	20	1	6	9	12	15
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
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Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
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do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
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do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
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Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
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Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
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Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30	36	42	1	22	28	34	40
Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
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Bombay, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do via Marseilles	39	45	51	1	31	37	43	49
do do do French mail	30							

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1861.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York. Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents, if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

Contents of the Mails.

Until the period when the rates of postage were determined by weight, the contents of mailbags were almost entirely composed of letters and papers, but since that period the mails have become receptacles for an *omnium gatherum* more heterogeneous in its materials than any other which had been known since the time of Noah's Ark.

There is hardly an article of commerce or luxury, small enough to pass as mailable matter, which has not been committed to the charge of Uncle Sam. Night-caps, and baby's stockings, jewelry and snuff-boxes, knives and vaccine matter, are but specimens of the variety which the mail-bags often contain. Mind and matter are in juxtaposition. "Thoughts that breathe and words that burn" travel in company with flower seeds and surgical instruments. The Dead Letter Office becomes a receptacle for many of these miscellaneous articles, and the most numerous class is composed of daguerotypes, photographs, and the like. About 1,000 of these are sent to this office every year, from which we may imagine, though not estimate, the immense numbers which must continually be passing through the mails. Many of these defunct portraits it is impossible to return to those who sent them, because no letter was sent with them to show whence they came. They are preserved, however, and may be obtained by their owners, should they think it advisable to make a journey to Washington for this purpose.

Since the processes of producing photographic impressions upon paper and cloth were discovered, the amount received by the Post-Office for this description of mail matter is much less than it was when daguerotypes only were known. One's head is now a "dead head," for it can travel under the canopy of a letter without extra charge, if it is impressed upon some light material.

It was once a favorite amusement with some, to send various articles through the mails for the purpose of annoying those to whom these things were sent, old bachelors received baby's apparel, and old maids little models of cradles. Physicians were reminded of their professional blunders by miniature tombstones, and gentlemen of the law saw the fate of their clients foreshadowed by diminutive mouse-traps. But the requiring of the prepayment of postage has put an end to much of this impertinence. Its perpetrators do not seem to think their own jokes worth paying for, and in this opinion they are unquestionably right.

Post Office Appointments.

Without wishing to meddle with subjects heretofore confined almost exclusively to the political press, it seems to me an appropriate time just now, to offer a few suggestions concerning the duty of all classes of citizens in selecting candidates to fill the important office of Postmaster. We do not mean to undervalue the necessity of designating good and true men for all other places of public trust, but this duty is particularly urgent in respect to the Post Office, inasmuch as upon so honest and faithful administration of its functions, our commercial and social interests so largely depend.

It would be unjust to say that the appointing power at Washington, under any administration has ever been, or is likely to be willing to confer appointments upon individuals known to be deficient in character or requisite qualifications. And yet it would be quite as far from the truth, to assert that such men, and not a few either, do find their way into our post offices. This melancholy fact is but too apparent to many of our citizens of all political parties, who have under all administrations, had just cause of complaint in consequence of the inefficiency and even doubtful character of some of this class of officials.

Who are to blame for this, and what are the remedies? We answer the people themselves are to blame. In putting their signatures to post-office petitions, they are apt to be governed by political considerations alone, and for that matter, so are members of Congress, who of late years, have tacitly claimed as one of their essential prerogatives, the right to control all the appointments within their Congressional Districts. Of necessity, the appointing power must rely largely upon their advice and unopposed knowledge of the favorite candidates urged, naturally inferring that self respect, as well as a regard for his own popularity at home, would prevent the Hon. member from asking the appointment of an improper individual. But such are the mysterious combinations and contingencies of politics, that even a Congressman is not always left free to act independently, or in exact accordance with his own private convictions, or the stern principles of public duty, in the exercise of his influence in appointments to office. They are seldom made however, in the Post Office Department at least, without some expression on the part of the community directly interested, and it is here that the remedy should be applied.

When solicited to sign post office petitions, a flat denial should be given where the appoint-

ment would not in all respects be a suitable one, or in case the proposed site of the office is inconvenient or improper. It is much easier to prevent in this way, saddling the community with an inefficient, ignorant, and unaccommodating post master, than to cure the evil after the selection has been made. We have no doubt many a community know this by sad experience.

Liability of Postmasters.

It is a very serious question how far a postmaster is to be held responsible, in cases of pecuniary loss resulting from a failure to do his whole duty in respect to the custody of letters passing through his hands. When it is clearly shown that such loss has been the result of his own gross carelessness or that of his subordinates, or the general bad management of his office, it would seem no more than just that such liability should follow.

At least such has been the opinion of courts and juries in some cases where this question of responsibility has been brought before them. The case of *Christy versus Smith*, Postmaster at Waterbury, Vermont, which may be found in "Vermont Reports," vol. 8, page 663, should serve as a warning to post-masters who are prone to inefficiency and loose management in the discharge of their duties.

A letter containing a considerable amount of money, was mailed at Salisbury, Vt., to a party in Waterbury in the same State. It was lost. Suit was brought against the post-master for the recovery of the amount, with costs. It was satisfactorily shown that the letter reached the Waterbury office, but was not delivered. It was further proved that the office was badly managed, that letters could be easily abstracted from the boxes by reaching through the delivery window, and that persons in no way connected with the office, were allowed free access at all times, behind the boxes, and his assistants admitted that they had never taken the required oath of office.

This case resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff, though no one attributed to the defendant any greater delinquency or dishonesty than a neglect of that degree of watchfulness and care, implied by the acceptance of his important trust.

Honesty in the discharge of official duty is not confined to abstaining from deprecating upon the mails, or otherwise violating the sanctity of letter seals for purposes of mere curiosity.

It is not honest to allow others not connected with a post-office, an opportunity to be dishonest, by failing to provide all possible checks and precautions against such contingencies.

It is not honest to employ in such responsible positions persons who through ignorance, bad habits, stupidity or indifference, are as likely to go wrong as right in transacting post-office business.

It is not honest to accept of a high trust from the Government, and yet consider and treat the position in the light of a sinecure, visiting the office often enough perhaps, to sign the quarterly accounts, and pocket the large or small commissions, as the case may be.

It is not honest to make the post-office a political caucus-room, where tobacco smoke, loud talking and disorder usurp the place of neatness and good order, and where timmed applicants for letters are turned off with a negative growl from the lazy official in the dim distance, who finds it easier to pronounce the hackneyed word "nothing," than to take down his extensive legs from their elevated position, and make a faithful search for the letter.

It is far from honest to allow curious and prying persons to inspect the letters of others for any purpose or under any pretext, or to afford any information whatever concerning such correspondence. In short, the public have a right to expect and to demand the utmost care, privacy and vigilance in the management of their postal affairs.

Odd Names.

The Indian names of rivers, lakes, &c., are often very expressive, having evidently been selected for the purpose of briefly describing their characteristics. We are unable to say whether a similar principle guided those to whom our towns and villages are indebted for their names. If this is so, it is to be hoped that some of them have outlived the appropriateness which their designations might once have possessed. The inhabitants of "Long-coming" are not still, we trust, experiencing those pangs of hope deferred which the name of their town would seem to indicate as their inheritance, and the citizens of "Lost Chance" may yet find something turn up, though they may now be living, like their ancestors, in a state of Micawberian suspense.

The names of some places are so seductive, that we wonder they have not long ago swelled to populous cities. "Fair Dealing" would offer almost inevitable inducements to the public at large, and if people were generally aware of the existence of several "Edens" and "Paradises" in our country, we fancy there would be a general rush to those favored regions. "Solomon Grove" and "Solitude" invite those who are weary of the world, and "Bachelors' Retreat" offers repose to single gentlemen of a retiring disposition. There seems to be no similar institution for old maids, perhaps because they seldom do retreat. "Good Intent," must be a dubious place, for we know from good authority the nature of the pavement of a certain locality "not to be named to ears polite," and we should fear that the town abovementioned might not be far from that unpleasant locality. "Fee fee" cannot be other than a fearful place to live in. The legal odor of the name is rather overpowering.

"Goblintown" provokes to conjecture. The spectral-looking name tempts one to wonder where it came from,—whether it referred originally to "a spirit of health or goblin damned." Perhaps it had a less ethereal origin. The first settlers of the place may have been famed for their gormandizing propensities. Or they may

have been renowned for raising turkeys, "Goblintown" being slightly varied from "Gobbler-town."

"Scuffletown" and "Troublesome" should lie near one another, and "Poverty Hill" should not be far from "Skinquarter."

It is pleasing to see the progress of improvement among even the long-eared gentry. "Rabbit Town" rejoices in a post office, and we are surprised to find that parlor-dogs have not yet associated themselves in a civil capacity.

It sometimes happens that persons who address letters to a place with an uncommon name, neglect to append the name of the State, supposing that there can be no other place with the same appellation. But it is not safe to trust to this, as will appear from the mention of a few out of many instances of a repetition of singular names. There are six Willow Groves, three post offices named Yellow Spring, and three named Yellow Springs. There are six Mount Alrys, Eighteen Mount Pleasants, and five Hurricanes.

The list might be indefinitely extended, for there is an abundance of material in the "Table of Post Offices," but we will not pursue the subject farther.

GEN. DIX.—The appointment of Gen. JONN A. DIX, as Secretary of the Treasury, and his consequent vacation of the office of Post Master of New York, has already been generally made known to the public.

Gen. Dix entered upon his duties as Post Master, in May last, and it may be truly said of him, that no public officer ever devoted himself to his trust with more industry and rigid fidelity to the public and the government. No part of the practical duties devolving upon him have been considered too trifling to be thoroughly understood, and if necessary, to receive his personal attention. Owing to the embarrassing circumstances under which he assumed those duties, and his comparative inexperience in postal matters, his responsibilities and personal anxiety were of course greatly enhanced, but in even this brief official career, he has succeeded to our belief, in restoring whatever degree of public confidence had been withdrawn in consequence of former mismanagement and recklessness.

The new and enlarged sphere of Gen. Dix, is of course more important, but we cannot but regret the necessity which caused the withdrawal of so worthy and amiable a gentleman and so devoted a public servant, from the postal service of the country.

The General took leave of his assistants and clerks in the office, in a neat speech, just before leaving for Washington. His remarks were as follows:—

GENTLEMEN:—I have come here to take my leave of you, for I cannot consent to part with you without making personally, an acknowledgment of the faithful and satisfactory manner in which you have discharged your respective duties.

I took charge of this office under circumstances peculiarly painful to you all; but I am happy to say that no one of you was responsible, in the slightest degree, for the official delinquency, which was the origin of my connection with you. If abuses in the administration of the office have been corrected, much of the credit is due to the faithful cooperation which you have given me; and I take great pleasure in bearing testimony to your diligence and zeal as well as your fidelity.

We part, gentlemen, as we came together, under circumstances the most painful. But I trust in God that when we meet again, it may be under better auspices and with the hands of our common union unbroken—or if broken for a time, to be speedily and harmoniously rejoined. But time will not allow me to say more to you, or to take my leave of each of you individually as it was my desire to do. I can only add that I tender to you all, with my best wishes, a cordial farewell.

THE NEW POST OFFICE SITE.—A bill is now before the Legislature, giving the consent of the State to the General Government to hold the title to the land now occupied by the old Dutch church, for the erection thereupon of a new post office building. The purchase is already nearly perfected, and the necessary legislative action is in accordance with legal requirements.

It is hoped and expected that when all is ready, the new building will at once be commenced, for it will be impossible much longer to transact the immense postal business in the present old "shanty" in Nassau street.

An appropriation of \$500,000 for the new post office, was made by Congress in 1855. For the present site, the Post Master General pays \$200,000, leaving \$300,000 for the building.

An incidental and humane advantage resulting from a speedy commencement of operations, would be the employment it would afford to a portion of the multitude of mechanics and laborers now out of work in this city.

TO NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS.—Publishers of newspapers and periodicals cannot it seems to us, be aware of the carelessness of some of those employed in addressing the wrappers upon their publications to go by the mails. That this is the cause of a large proportion of complaints of the failures and delays of this class of mail matter, no one will doubt who is in a way to notice the constant trouble and vexation of Postmasters, Route Agents and others—oftentimes fruitless—in attempting to decipher the shapeless scrawls upon newspaper packages, especially those emanating from the city press. It is really a serious evil both to those who sort the mails, and those who expect punctuality in the receipt of their newspapers.

Publishers should look occasionally to the manner in which the "wrapper writers" are doing their work.

WILLIAM B. TAYLOR, Esq.—In the appointment of this gentleman as Post Master of New York, the President has paid a high compliment to the practical, working corps of officials throughout the country, and has at the same time given to the New York public, one of the most efficient, reliable and intelligent officers ever selected for this responsible position.

We only repeat what everybody in New York knows, when we mention the fact that Mr. TAYLOR has grown up in the post office of this

city, and has by his industry, fidelity, and uniform courtesy, won the entire respect and confidence of his official associates and the public. If such men are to be overlooked, when chances of promotion offer, there is but little encouragement in such a long course of self-sacrificing devotion in the public service.

Canadian Post Office.

We have thought that it would be interesting to most of our readers, were they furnished with the names of the Executive officers of the Canadian Post Office—and a slight insight into the working of the machinery by which our neighbors across the Great Lakes regulate their Postal affairs with so much advantage to the public and so much credit to those whose duty it is to superintend the working of the Department. We feel confident in saying that in no country in the world are Postal affairs better managed than in Canada. True, it may be said that the Post Offices, comparatively speaking are few in number, and consequently easily managed. We admit that in comparison with the number in our own and many other countries the number is small; at the same time we think every one will admit, who has any knowledge of Canada Postal affairs that the machinery by which it is managed is about as perfect as it is possible to make it. The officials of every rank fulfill their duties honorably and creditably—and what is the best test of all, to the entire satisfaction of the Canadian people.

The political complexion of the ministry of the day makes no difference with Canadian employees of the Government. It makes no difference to them whether Tories, or Reformers, Clear Grits or Conservatives hold the reins of power. They maintain their position firmly and securely as well when the ship of State is peacefully gliding onward as when tossed about on the turbulent sea of politics.

Dismissal from the government service never takes place unless for misconduct or neglect of duty. The fruits of this wise policy are daily and hourly to be seen in every branch of the government, and in none more than in the Post Office. The duties pertaining to this department are not to be learned in a day, a week or a year. It requires time, with a clear and persevering attention to the varied duties to be performed.

We must ask pardon of our readers for the above digression from the point at which we started—namely, to give a list of the Executive officers of the Canadian Post Office Department, but the fact is, we had been so interested in the subject that we had quite forgotten our starting point. But we will now proceed and introduce the Hon. Sidney Smith, Postmaster General. This gentleman, for several years past has occupied a prominent position in the affairs of the country. He is a man of great force of character, and mental energy—occupying as he does, a prominent position as a lawyer, he is enabled to bring his perceptive and reflective faculties, which are of a high order, into the details of the working of his department. Since Mr. Smith assumed the administration of the Post Office, great and important improvements have been effected, and chief among them the commencement of the weekly ocean mail service. Had he not performed a single act since the commencement of his term of office, save the last, he would have deserved well of his countrymen. To carry out this great undertaking, Mr. Smith has crossed the Atlantic twice, he certainly is no red tapist or circumlocutionist. He evidently understands the adage of "striking while the iron is hot," and proceeding directly to the fountain-head when anything is to be done. The success that has attended all his undertakings is the best proof that can be given of his energy, tact and administrative ability.

Mr. Smith is ably seconded in the duties of his responsible office by William Henry Griffin, Esq., Deputy Postmaster General. Since the Department was first cast loose from the Imperial moorings, in 1851, Mr. Griffin, like a skillful pilot, has stood by the tiller and guided his department with a firm hand and steady eye, at the commencement of the voyage everything looked dark and dismal, and the political atmosphere was charged with discontent, which ever and anon burst upon the devoted bark as she staggered along under her heavy load—but thanks to her able commander who has weathered the storm, the clouds have swept by, and the noble craft is bounding along, with every sail shrouk out to tempt the breeze.

The other officers of the department are:

H. A. Wicksteed, Accountant.

White, Secretary.

J. Ashworth, Cashier.

P. Le Suer, Superintendent Money Order Branch.

Eight First Class Clerks.

Four Second " "

Nine Third " "

Two Fourth " "

For the better and more immediate supervision of the department over the postal affairs of the country, four divisions have been formed, each division being presided over by an Inspector.

The first is the Montreal Division, — Meilleure, Inspector, Edwin F. King, Assistant, and two clerks.

Kingston Division—M. Sweetman, Inspector, T. A. Wilkins, Assistant.

Toronto Division—John Dewé, Inspector, Thos. Jolly, Assistant, and three clerks.

London Division—Gilbert E. Griffin, Inspector, George Cox, Assistant, and two clerks.

Mr. Edward S. Freer, formerly Post Office Inspector of the Montreal Division, has been transferred to the Postmaster-ship of that city, and Mr. Meilleure the ex-postmaster now occupies the position of Inspector.

ADVICE IN A NUT SHELL.—A vigilant postmaster sends us the following:

"To whom it may concern:—Writers of letters, mail agents and post masters will please make good use of their optics, and not send so many papers and letters astray."

From the New York Ledger.

MOUNT VERNON SERIES NO. 27.

"In this respect the Express resembles the Post Office, which is greatly undervalued, when it is regarded only as an instrument for carrying on the commercial correspondence of the country. Of inestimable importance indeed, in its connexion with commerce, the Post Office did not derive its origin from the wants of trade, nor taking the aggregate of the social interests into consideration, does its great utility consist in supplying these wants. The Posts of antiquity were, no doubt, like those of the Mahometan governments at the present day, established for the purpose of carrying out the military and other official communications of the State. If they afforded any facilities for private correspondence, it must have been irregular and accidental. The Postal arrangements, in the early periods of modern European history, were no doubt of the same kind; and had no direct connection with trade. The first approach to the modern system is said to have been made by the University of Paris, at the beginning of the thirteenth century, for the convenience of the vast multitudes of students, who resorted to it from every part of the world. If this supposition be well founded, it was Education and Trade which gave the germ of the Post Office system to the civilized world; and to reward this service the compensation of the professors of the University of Paris was, till quite modern times, charged upon the revenue of the Post office.

However this may be, it scarce admits a question that the province of the Post Office in reference to the moral, the political, the social and domestic interests and relations of the country is decidedly more important than its immediate connection with commerce, important as that is. In fact, when I contemplate the extent to which the moral sentiments, the intelligence, the affections of so many millions of people, sealed up by a sacred charm within the cover of a letter, daily circulating through a country, I am compelled to regard the Post Office, next to Christianity, as the right arm of our modern civilization."

PRYING INTO LETTERS.—There are a class of delinquencies somewhat frequent we are sorry to think, both in post offices and outside, which, although they do not perhaps, in the estimation of some, involve that degree of moral turpitude of other offences, are both dishonest and illegal.

Of this class, is the practice of opening or prying into a letter—in the language of the U. S. Statute—"with a design to obstruct the correspondence, or to pry into another's business or secrets."

Experience shows that this practice is sometimes resorted to by persons who would scorn to open or tamper with letters with a view to rob them of anything of value which they might contain. Curiosity, not real dishonesty is the motive of such.

Our law makers, it seems, long since discovered the necessity of guarding against this mischievous and mean propensity, for as early as 1825, they placed upon the National Statute Book, severe penalties against any one inside or outside the post office, who should indulge in the dishonorable practice to which we have been alluding.

A FACT WORTH KNOWING.—A knowledge of the rule and custom enforced by the Department, and generally adopted in post offices, in regard to the disposition of a certain class of correspondence, may perhaps be the means of preventing mortification and even more serious difficulty, in some cases. We refer to certain letters supposed to be anonymous, which, in order to prevent the locality of the writer being known are frequently enclosed to a post master to be re-mailed, the post mark there to be affixed, aiding generally as is supposed, in putting the recipient of the letter off the track, as to its real author.

According to official instructions of the Department, it is the duty of a postmaster to "re-mail such letter, with the post mark of his own office, and also to state upon it the name of the office from which it was sent to him to mail."

Thus it will be seen that the "dodge" referred to is rather an unsafe one.

NEW YORK POST OFFICE.—The ground on which the New York Post Office now stands, was purchased by the Consistory of the old Middle Dutch Church, in the year 1726, of Mr. David Jamison, for the sum of \$1,500. The Church was built in 1729, and used for Divine service, until the occupation of New York by the British. During this period, it was first used as a prison, and afterwards as a riding school for the British officers and soldiers. After undergoing repairs, the Church was again re-opened for service on the 4th of July, 1790. The last sermon was preached in the Church August 11, 1844.

OBITUARY.—The announcement of the decease of WILLIAM H. DUNDAS, Esq., Second Assistant Post Master General, has been received everywhere, with feelings of deep regret and sadness. His connection with the P. O. Department, covers a period of over thirty years, during about nine years of which, he has filled the important station at the head of the Contract Office, which he held at the time of his death.

Mr. Dundas was distinguished for his excellent judgment in all his official decisions and transactions, and his singular fidelity in the discharge of every duty pertaining to his public trusts. Whether his answers to applicants were favorable or otherwise, the applicant was never left in doubt as to the honesty and entire disinterestedness of the motives which had governed him. The loss of his great experience and usefulness will be severely felt in the Department.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1861.

No. 6.

Post Mistresses.

The "mission" or "sphere" of woman (which ever it may be called) is continually increasing in extent and importance. Once she hoed corn for her lord and master; now her lord and master hoed corn for her. Her influence, like a rising tide, is gradually submerging those strongholds which the other sex have claimed as theirs by right of occupation. She has entered the haunts of commerce and displaced clerks and book-keepers; she has assumed command of the telegraph; she has carried by storm the pulpit and the rostrum, and has taken possession of the editorial chair. Not content with these achievements, she has begun to lay her hands on government offices, and even now the Post Office Department has enrolled among its army of employes a goodly corps of post mistresses and post office clerks. These fair incumbents are for the most part quite independent of changes in administration and consequent rotation in office; for our Members of Congress, who mainly control post office appointments in their several districts, are restrained by their gallantry from exercising any adverse influence in this class of cases.

The subject reminds us of an amusing anecdote which is related of an Ex-Senator, the Hon. Daniel E. Dickinson. A post office not far from his residence becoming vacant, a lively contest sprang up for the appointment, and among the applicants was a Mrs. Nancy W. Congress being in session at the time, the worthy Senator, in accordance with usage in such cases, was requested to call at the Department to look at the papers in the case in hand. The request was promptly complied with, and the documents were duly inspected, not without some perplexity in the mind of the Senator; for two of his personal and political friends, both highly respectable and competent men, were, as appeared from the papers, about "neck and neck" in the race for office, so far as influential signatures on either side could make them so. But suddenly a light dawned upon the Senator. A neatly written note in a lady's handwriting came to view, applying for the office in her own behalf, and giving but a single name as reference, and that the name of the honorable Senator himself. He had known her deceased husband intimately and most favorably for many years, and was no stranger to the young widow herself. After a moment's reflection, he carefully returned the delicate missive to its place, and made the following laconic endorsement upon the papers:—"I go for Nancy." Nancy was of course appointed, and is still faithfully serving the public in the capacity of post mistress.

How to Lose an Office.

A true and instructive anecdote occurs to us, showing how official positions are sometimes sacrificed by the very means adopted to render them secure and permanent.

Soon after the appointment of Hon. Cave Johnson, as Post Master General, under Mr. Polk's administration, a gentleman holding a \$1400 clerkship in that department took an early occasion to tender him the use of his impending carriage, until he, Mr. Johnson, had procured an establishment of his own. The courteous and dignified Tennessee thanked Mr. K. for the kind offer, implying by his manner that nothing could have been more opportune or acceptable. In a few days, regular "Cabinet day" came round, and as the Post Master General emerged from his official apartment, he was met by our generous and thoughtful friend, who informed him that the carriage was then at the door of the main entrance, awaiting his orders, at the same time proposing to accompany him to the vehicle aforesaid. Arriving there, the door was thrown open, when the form of a neatly dressed and rather genteel middle-aged lady was observed quietly ensconced within.

"Col. Johnson, permit me to introduce Mrs. R., my wife."

"Good morning, madam, I am happy to see you," said our postal chief, as he, with a low bow and a bland smile, entered the carriage and took his seat beside the lady.

"Drive to the President's," said the polite clerk, addressing the driver, and at the same time bowing gracefully to the cheerful inmates of the carriage and closing the door thereof.

Away they rolled, and our very delighted friend thus soliloquized, as he hastily returned to his desk and his task, the latter probably rendered much less irksome by the thought that he had, beyond all cavil or doubt, secured his office for at least the term of four years longer: "That's all right. Wasn't it well done?"

Meanwhile "honest Cave" and his new lady acquaintance were progressing moderately along C. street, westward. The ordinary topics of the weather, &c., having been disposed of: Mrs. R. remarked:

"I trust sir, you will find it consistent to retain Mr. K. in his place. He was formerly in independent circumstances, but our income, aside from his salary, we find quite insufficient in so expensive a place as this. I am happy in the belief that he enjoys an enviable reputation for efficiency, in the Department."

"I hear him very well spoken of, madam," answered the distinguished listener, suppressing as best he could his real emotions of disgust, caused by the shocking bad taste of this whole

plot, which had flashed upon him at the moment of his first discovery of the lady in the carriage. As speedily as possible, he dismissed the (to him) unpleasant topic under consideration, by adroitly changing the subject, and avoiding a further recurrence to the theme nearest the lady's heart. The White House was soon reached, to the great relief of at least one of the parties, when Mr. Johnson alighted, politely bidding Mrs. R. "good morning," and the carriage, with its fair single inmate, departed.

The following morning, as Mr. R. entered his room at the Department, his eye rested upon a very neat and official-looking note lying upon his desk.

"Ah! can it be that yesterday's well planned manoeuvre has brought so prompt a pledge in writing that all is secret? Perhaps an addition to the salary, or a promotion outright. Who knows? Woman is the thing after all!"

Hastily the welcome missive was seized, and nervously opened. It read as follows:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
March 29, 1845.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that your services as a Clerk in this Department will no longer be required, after this date.

Respectfully yours,
CAVE JOHNSON, P. M. General.

The Department.

Of all the departments of our government, it may well be doubted whether there is one more important to the efficiency of the whole system and to the business and prosperity of the entire community, than the Post Office Department.

But however this may be, it is quite certain that there is no department whose operations are so sensibly and familiarly known to the masses, and which come so constantly home to their daily life, business and enjoyments. All the other departments operate upon them so indirectly that even their very existence, although not unknown, is scarcely noticed or felt, and their action, and the means and agencies by which it is produced, attract no general attention and excite little general interest. Not so with the Post Office Department. Its action and agencies are known to and felt and watched by all, and the least of its short-comings or irregularities is recognized as a personal grievance by those whom they may chance either permanently or temporarily to affect.

"Nancy lies the head that wears a crown."

And if this is true, the head of a Post Master General, who has to guide, govern, direct and keep in order this vast and complicated Department, its agencies and its practical workings, can hardly be supposed to lie very easy, or his pathway to be altogether strewn with flowers. Think of 28,000 post offices already in existence, and to be suitably officered and supervised, with the constant and frequently unreasonable and urgent and persistent applications for more,—of its network of mail routes, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the British Possessions on the North, to Mexico on the South—to say nothing of foreign routes—all to be adjusted, supervised and kept in harmonious and efficient operation—of the post masters, route agents, special agents, and various other officials necessary to the efficient working of the system, to be selected, and their operations supervised,—and of sundry other important matters under his charge—and you cannot fail to perceive that the labors of a Post Master General are Herculean, whatever the meed of approval or disapproval meted out to that officer by the public.

Yet in all these multiplied and harassing duties and labors, an intelligent and hard-working Post Master General, if duly aided by a competent corps of assistants and clerks, may hope at least to deserve, if he cannot attain success,—with one important exception: the selection, both within and without the walls of his Department, of those whose duty it is to aid him in his task. Without competent and efficient aid from his assistants and clerks within, and his post masters, special, route and other agents without, all his own labors are, more or less, counteracted, and the efficient and harmonious operations of the system disturbed.

And this brings us to "the skeleton in the house," which stands ever ready to mar and defeat his best intentions—his appointments to office, whether within or without the walls of his Department. The difficulties which attend his action in that matter seem inherent in the very nature of the duty, and therefore, to a great extent, unavoidable, and such as can bring no just censure upon a Post Master General, provided he acts intelligently and conscientiously upon the best information within his power—information, unfortunately, too often deceptive or unreliable.

Of course, he has not, in one case in one hundred, that personal knowledge of the applicant or applicants which he can rely upon to govern his decisions; but is obliged to rely upon the information, advice or opinion of others. And hence the difficulties and the too frequent unfairness of the selection, often enhanced by conflicting claims and opinions.

In this office-seeking age and country, the active politician is most commonly the applicant for appointment, and men of influence are but too apt to back up applications without due regard to proper qualifications for discharging the duties of the office. Hence so many unfortunate appointments, by which the public

interests suffer, but for which the appointing power is not necessarily blame-worthy.

The only remedy, if any there be, for these evils, is to be looked for in greater care and a more single eye to the public interest, in those who recommend. *Shall we have it!*

As illustrative of the above—the Hon. F. Granger, when Post Master General, on the warmest recommendations from gentlemen of high standing, was just about affixing his signature to a commission as special agent for a certain individual, when he accidentally ascertained that the individual in question was then lying drunk in a tavern in the city of Washington—was a notorious drunkard, and had actually belonged to a gang of counterfeiters!

On another occasion, Mr. Granger said to the writer of this, in reference to an unfortunate appointment to a clerkship in his Department which he had made, "What am I to do? Men bring me recommendations from the highest sources, which would indicate that they were well worthy of being made foreign ambassadors; and when I give them a clerkship, they prove to be good for nothing at all."

The reply was, "Were I in your place, sir, I would give, at first, none but a temporary appointment to any applicant for a clerkship, unless I personally knew him and his worth. Then you could try him, and if found unfit, discharge him without trouble or personal offence to his friends; whereas, under a general appointment, it is often difficult and always unpleasant to do so."

The London Post Office.

NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT.
We continue our extracts from the London Times. The glory of the model postal system of the world is certainly departing under the guardianship of the Times editor:

"The newspapers are brought up in baskets to the top of the room, and emptied down through a trap door into a tremendous pile on a table, round which the sorters crowd as near as they can, but there is not fair room for the number employed, though work for twice as many. Then all are in the way, and jostle each other as they crowd to and fro with their arms full of papers till the floor is strewn with periodicals of all kinds. In the centre of the heap a man wades knee-deep, armed with that world-renowned kind of wooden rake, with which he goes through a hasty process of tossing the papers towards the sorters. Should any of the patrons get some publication with a loose jacket, that they 'never bargained for,' the old notice of 'some of the publications have come out of their covers,' must serve for an apology, but should they ever get a peep at the *hinds open*, and find that the post in the case of the papers, treading them out of their covers by scores, they will certainly be enlightened as to one of the causes.

The first thing which the visitor notices on entering these rooms, apart from the dirt, overcrowding, and confusion, which the most unremitting efforts of those in charge fail to mitigate, is the poor and miserable aspect of the men employed. On two or three nights a week here the staff are utterly unequal to discharge their heavy duties, and this emergency is met by taking up additional men—laborers about the post office—who are paid at the rate of 1s. a night. But we have neither time nor inclination to go on ringing the changes on a perpetual series of delicacies, nor to point out how the papers are sorted according to all sorts of plans, one most essential part of each process apparently being to stand every individual paper up on its end. Suffice it to say that in most instances they are got rid of in time, though it is a very common occurrence for a large proportion to miss the mail altogether, and as a matter of course, all those that are trodden out of their covers remain behind.

The sacks at last are bundled into their huge vans—half fire-engine, half water-car, drawn by horses as meagre looking and as slow as the poor extra sorters in the post office at 10s. a week. These vans were once called 'accelerators,' and the name is still retained in bitter pleasantry. They leave the post office at half-past 8 in the morning, by which time the city is beginning to fill with business men, who have already seen their daily paper, and when, through the private enterprise of the news-agents, the London journals have started two hours ago, and are flying along the rail to all parts of the Kingdom. At such an hour these 'accelerators' may be seen, laden with the letters and papers of the previous day, lumbering slowly down Ludgate-hill."

Again the "Thunderer" (the London Times) is charged in behalf of the newspaper press of England, in this wise:

"Being a government department, the post office has also used, or rather abused, its authority from time to time, to fix the most arbitrary rules of transmission and standard of weight, levelled at the daily press especially, the power of which has been as little liked by successive administrations as its immense circulation has been inconvenient to the post office. Still has come to pass that for all practical purposes the transmission of news, while it is still fresh and valuable to the public, has been choked off from the general post office altogether, which prefers, to that important function of its duties, the profits to be obtained by competing with the carriers of the country in transmitting every conceivable description of small parcels under the rate obtained from the railways for the carriage of letters and papers only. Of all the immense number of daily papers sent from London each morning, the post office only takes from 6,000 to 7,000, by its early mails, and even of this number it not infrequently happens that many are left behind. The cheap papers and the high priced are alike sought to be excluded from the use of this establishment by a tariff which is either an entire prohibition in the case of penny papers, or a most severe restriction with the other journals."

The same journal, adverting to the details of business, the exactions of minute from pub-

lishers, to facilitate the sorting of packages, the extreme labor required from the subordinates, and the poor compensation for such services—goes on to add:

"Discontent has passed into a feeling much deeper than is generally implied by the term, and we may be said to speak in the names of two-thirds of those employed at St. Martin's-le-Grand when we state that the great wish there now is for a Parliamentary inquiry into the whole postal system, both as regards the interests of the public and the interests of those employed. If any member of the House [of Commons] will take the trouble to visit the post office and investigate this matter for himself for a few days, he will find that want of room, want of improved system, and want of a properly paid and efficient staff, are fast giving rise to such disorganizations as must call for the interference of the Legislature. Unless some such step is taken, the public may depend that the mismanagement and discontent which have been so long recurring will continue to show themselves even more rapidly than of late, and till one of the most important of our national institutions loses all claim to the character of efficiency."

DEATH OF A WORTHY POST OFFICE CLERK.—It is seldom that an event has so stirred the fountains of sympathy and sorrow in our hearts, as the late sudden death of Charles Roath, for many years a clerk in the post office at Norwich, Conn. In our occasional official visits to that office, the opportunity was afforded us of observing and appreciating the many rare and excellent traits of character possessed by this exemplary young man, and we owe it to his memory, and also to his afflicted relatives, to say, that among the many thousands of post office clerks within the circle of our acquaintance, we have never known one more upright and faithful, or who had secured our personal and official confidence to a greater extent, than Charles Roath.

In this connection, a circumstance occurs to us which will serve to illustrate the worth of a good character, and the protection of a consciousness of integrity in these trying positions in which all post office employes are occasionally placed.

A letter containing \$165, which had been deposited in the Norwich office to go to a neighboring town, was reported missing.—The investigation elicited the fact that "Charles Roath" received the letter, being alone in the office, was aware of its valuable contents, and also loaded up the mail by which it was to go out. We knew he had honestly performed his duty in the matter, and so informed the parties most interested. But nevertheless, being willing to extend our experience a little in the unmistakable signs of conscious honesty, we sought a private interview with him, and with some official formality said to him:

"Charles, I am sorry that after keeping straight so long, you should at last have yielded to temptation! I of course refer to the \$165 letter. But never mind, we must make the best of it. Your economical habits have prevented you from spending much of the money, I hope, and now your first duty is to hand me over all that remains, that it may be returned to Mr. B. That is the least you can do." We never found assumed gravity more difficult than in saying these words, but we succeeded pretty well, as was evinced by the serious and thoughtful manner in which our remarks were received. After a slight pause, he asked:

"Mr. B., are you really in earnest about this?"

Braving a direct answer, we replied, "I will not ask a confession. I merely want you to give up the money, or else say you are willing and prefer that I should bring the proof forward publicly, just as it is, when of course it will be too late to avert the awful consequences to yourself and your friends."

"Sir," said he, with a falling tear, "I am all right, and you can go ahead with your proof as soon as you please. I have no favors to ask."

And he was "all right"—for a few days afterwards the letter, unopened, turned up in the pocket of the overcoat of a neighbor of the gentlemen to whom it was addressed. This friend had taken it out of the post office, and forgotten the circumstance altogether until inquiries refreshed his recollection. Frequently afterwards, Charles would ask us if we would not like to have him "give up some money which had never been lost."

The "Aurora," edited by the post master of Norwich, contains the following notice of the sickness and death of the young man of whom we have been speaking:

"Charles Roath, son of Edwin N. Roath, Esq. of Preston, died at the residence of his parents in that town, on Monday evening last, after an illness of eight days. He was 23 years and two months old. His disease was pneumonia, with which he was attacked so violently that he was conscious in its early stages that it would terminate fatally, and calmly made his preparations for death. His funeral was attended at Trinity Church on Wednesday, and attracted a very large concourse of sympathizing friends. On Tuesday morning several of his classmates in the church appropriately trimmed the post office in mourning.

The death of this young man calls for more than a passing announcement at our hands. When, nearly eight years ago, we entered upon the discharge of our duties as post master in this city, we took him from this office, which he had a few months before entered as an apprentice, and transferred him to the post office as an assistant. From that time till the morning that he went home to die, he was our constant coun-

panion. Of a mild and affectionate disposition, true to every trust, patient, cheerful, and implicitly relied upon as one in whom deceit, or the appearance of it, was impossible, he became endeared to us and to all with whom he was officially connected. His daily contact with the public gave them an opportunity to form a judgment of him, and what that judgment was, was feelingly evinced during his sickness by the anxious inquiries after his health, and when he died by the sincere expressions of sorrow upon everybody's lips. Scarcely a person within the delivery of the office who had not been the recipient of some courteous and kindly act at his hands. To have established such a character, and so have won the affections of all with whom he came in contact, was evidence enough of the remarkable honesty and purity of his heart.

We might say far more than this of our young friend, but less we could not say."

Poetical

And other addresses copied from letters passing through the mail.

See, post master, here's a stamp,
Send it quick or you're a scamp.
To Smith of Boston, let it go—
To be exact, he's christened Joe.
The man I vot you'll surely find,
On Purchase street at 99,
The house is built of brick and stone,
And called by all the "Sailors' Home."

This letter may the fates defend,
While travelling to its destined end,
And may it go in safety till,
It reach the town Mechanicville,
Saratoga County, New York State,
There in the office let it wait,
Until Sallie Morton calls,
And takes it from the office stalls,
So gentle postman don't you lose
This letter full of love and news

Over the hills and over the level,
Carry this letter like the devil,
At Ellington, Ct., leave it,
Where Charlie Green will receive it.

To New Jersey now I bid you go,
To Clarksburg, neither "fast or slow,"
Find P. F. Baker, a pedagogue there,
Who punishes pupils by pulling their hair.

John Short I long to see,
But as that cannot be,
This letter must go
To a place you well know,
To Bath, in Maine,
Or I'll raise Cain

Mr Charles Nye,
If you were rich,
I shouldn't write,
To you this night
But this letter,
For want of a better,
To find you will go,
To Columbus Ohio.

Miss S. de Hawkswell
from the County Cork,
No. 125 Rue de Lavrens st
Baywick & between Prince st.
Houston street
New York City.

FOR JAMES GORCHER
JETHU DENON for HUGH O'NOD
No 103 in some street between,
the second and 6 avenue if not
there the Post master will
please take it to 203 same
street or to the next door to it.

TO SYLVESTER FULLER,
School custer
Post office Cnn

Cauldsister
Keucent
[It will be seen that two attempts were here made at spelling Colchester, in order, we suppose, that the post masters might take their choice between the two styles. What is meant is Colchester, Connecticut.]

John Van Dyke,
Knocks County
Miss Soory

To Bridget Swine,
In the family of
Mrs. Hogg, Elmira, N. Y.

A BLIND ADDRESS.—A letter was recently received in a certain office, with the following address upon it:

"Mr. Henry Ford,
Who lives in the
same place in the

State of Maine."
The list of post offices was fruitlessly ransacked in search of the place referred to, but last an ingenious clerk thus unravelled the enigma—

Henry Ford—Hem—Ford
Bids—ford;
to which place the letter was sent.

Indorsement on a letter received at the New York Post Office:

"Please forward these few lines to Miss Moony, not using her crissen name.
She has a sister Hannah Moony hear in Buffalo."

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, MARCH, 1855.

TERMS—The dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year, or a cent in advance.

Valentines.

There are certain observances which have commanded themselves to the fancy of mankind, and have consequently been maintained almost from time immemorial, in spite of wind and weather and the like adverse circumstances. Among these are the celebration of the first of May, and of St. Valentine's day. These customs, long practised, if not originating in England, where "the flowery May" is not a mere fragment of the poet's brain, and where the birds actually do command their domestic arrangements on or about the middle of February, seem somewhat absurd when they are transplanted to a country like ours, in which, three years out of four, Maying parties find overcoat and shawl in dispensable to the comfortable search for flowers, and the birds on the fourteenth of February are thinking of anything rather than of matrimonial negotiations.

But taking the institution as it is, we can say in behalf of St. Valentine's day that it adds very materially to the revenue of the Post Office Department. It is impossible to state definitely the amount of postage received from valentines, but in the cities particularly, the receipts are materially increased on the day in question. A large business is also transacted by the manufacturers and dealers in valentines. The amatory wants of all classes are provided for, from the weedy youth who purchases a penny's worth of daisies and hearts, to the ambitious individual who cannot express his feelings without an outlay of many dollars. But it is unfortunately true that other sentiments than those of innocent gallantry are conveyed by some of these missives. They are made to serve the purposes of malicious and evil-minded persons. Provoking caricatures and insulting rhymes are sent to gratify some grudge of the sender, and more than this, licentious thought, either in words or pictures, are conveyed under the disguise of valentines. The license of the day suggests and encourages dirty tricks like these, to those who would hardly venture upon them at other times.

A usage which can so easily be made the instrument of evil, should be kept within proper bounds, so far as possible, by those who are in a position to exercise control in the matter. This unfortunately is much limited by the nature of the case. It is seldom possible to prevent the sending of any description of communication, and the only possible precaution is in withholding improper valentines from those whom they might injure. It seems to us no more than a proper precaution, for parents to examine all communications of this kind which are sent to their children, and thus guard against corrupting influences from this source.

We have spoken of the abuses of valentines, and it would be difficult to point out any benefits which they occasion, besides those pecuniary ones which we have already mentioned. Aside from their abuse, valentines are a harmless folly, and as such, worthy of the countenance of those who would gladly substitute this for numerous other follies which are not harmless.

Postage Stamps.

Although Washington, Jefferson and Franklin have never been canonized, they seem to have been pressed into the public service, to act as guardian angels over the letters and papers which pass through the mails. Nor is this duty a sinecure. This illustrious trio possess a sort of ubiquity, thanks to the skill of the engraver. They lend their countenance to the diffusion of intelligence, whether of a public or a private nature. Franklin, as is appropriate for a quondam printer, takes under his special charge the newspapers and other printed documents which do not travel in so expensive a style as letters. The benignant visage of the philosopher, although rather blue in its aspect, sticks to its charge most manfully through their various journeyings, and sees them safely deposited at their different places of destination, notwithstanding the opprobrious treatment it receives at official hands. The old patriot's face is defaced, a shadow is cast upon his brow, and other lines than those of beauty are impressed upon his countenance at large.

But Franklin is not alone in his disgrace. The Father of his Country suffers the same contumely, inflicted by the hands of those very countrymen of his, in whose hearts we have been told he is "first." His glowing physiognomy receives a "customary suit of solemn black" from inexorable post masters, provoking the exclamation,

"If thou be't he—best, O how fall'n, how chang'd!"

Going one degree higher in the scale of pecuniary value, (Franklin's head representing one cent, and Washington's three), we find the sage of Monticello reckoned at half a dime; yet even this, exalted dignity does not save him from the fate of his associates. The post office, like the grave, levels all distinctions—to it, one cent and five are alike. The blackened stamp, or the ink-laden pen, descend with equal force upon the head of Franklin or of Jefferson.

Extending our researches, we find, however, that Jefferson must be content with the superiority which he has thus far obtained. The head of Washington, as fitting, leaves him far

behind, adorning postage stamps of the values of 10, 12, 24 and 30 cents, while that of Franklin is exalted thirty fold above its original station. It is rather startling to think of the multitude of heads of these great men, which are continually circulating through every nook and corner of our land. Like the forest leaves, each serves its one purpose, then falls and is cast under foot, to be followed by successors which meet a like fate.

A fanciful apology was once offered by a post office clerk, for neglect to comply with the law requiring the cancelling of stamps. He attributed his delinquency to his great reverence for Washington, which would not permit him to offer an indignity to even his "counterfeit presentation."

We are sure, however, that these patriots would never have objected to the use which the Post Office Department has made of their portraits. The living heads founded a nation, and their copies promote in no small degree the convenience of its social and commercial life. Least of all would Franklin refuse thus to serve his countrymen: for his is the saying, "Take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves."

Post Masters' Fees.

From remarks which we frequently hear, as to the pecuniary value to the incumbents of our largest post offices, it is evident that the subject is about as little understood as any other connected with post office matters.

For instance, quite an intelligent merchant recently insisted, in our hearing, that the New York post office was worth "all the way from six to fifteen thousand dollars per annum, to the post master."

The facts are simply these: This matter of the compensation of post masters is entirely regulated and controlled by law. All offices have the commissions amount to two thousand dollars, and upwards, are designated as salary offices, \$200 being the maximum pay allowed from that source, and an additional \$2000 to be taken out of the receipts for box rents—making \$4000 the highest compensation to any post master. A larger sum than this cannot be realized without resorting to acts made criminal and felonious by law of Congress, and punishable by the severest penalties. Even were a post master inclined to take the risk of such penalties, as well as the ruin of private and official character, such are the checks and restraints now enforced, that the "pickings and stealings" which many outsiders so flippantly talk about, are entirely out of the question. And if it were not so, the indulgence in such practices would involve perjury, as a post master is required to make oath that he has kept nothing from the government in the way of fees or emoluments of any kind, to which he is not legally entitled.

It will thus be seen that the New York post office, with its 238 clerks, 117 penny posts, \$1,000,000 annual revenue collected, and its \$150,000 bonds, under an honest administration of its duties, cannot be made to net much, if any more than some other offices, with perhaps a dozen clerks, a few thousand collections, and required services of one-fifth the amount.

We intend soon to prepare a statement of the emoluments, received annually at all the large post offices in the several States.

OCTAOCOC'S SWINDLE.—Gross impositions have been, and are still being practised in this city, in connection with letters deposited in the lamp-post boxes.

Proprietors of certain drug stores, and persons at other central localities, are furnished with small stamps or devices, having upon them the words, "Boyd's City Express Post, 1 cent." These are sold to parties having letters to deposit in the U. S. street boxes, with the assurance that they will, when placed upon letters, answer every purpose of the government penny stamp required to be put upon these letters, in addition to the regular postage. Of course, when such letters reach the post office, this bogus drug store stamp is not recognized, and after remaining in the post office for the term of fifteen days, they are sent to the Dead Letter Office. Not less than thirty letters per day of this class turn up at our city post office, causing, no doubt, great disappointment and perhaps loss, to the innocent sufferers by this contemptible petty cheat.

Measures are being taken to protect the public, hereafter, against such illegal practices, as far as possible.

The New Post Master General.
The appointment of Hon. Horatio King to the vacant Post Master Generalship appears to have been well received in all quarters.

Since the decease of Major Hobbes, so long and favorably known in connection with the postal service, no man in that Department appears to have been more conspicuous and useful, or more relied on in the management of the Department, than Mr. King. He was appointed to a clerkship by Hon. Amos Kendall, while at the head of the Department, in March 1839, and consequently his official relations to the postal service of the country cover a period of some twenty-two years. Previous to his appointment as First Assistant Post Master General, to succeed Major Hobbes in 1854, in addition to his other duties in the Contract Bureau, he had charge of, and made himself thoroughly conversant with, the foreign postal service of this and other governments; and his great familiarity with that complicated branch of the service was subsequently made of much practical value to the Department in the extension and formation of foreign treaties, and the arrangement of the details of that important business generally.

As the head of the Appointment Office, Mr. King has exhibited administrative abilities of no ordinary grade. It is known to be one of the most delicate, difficult and responsible positions under the government, and yet the late incumbent, so far as we are informed, has given very general satisfaction to all parties, as well as to the President and the Post Master General. His promotion to the highest place in the Department has been well earned.—*New York Herald.*

Resignations.

A great many resignations of post masters from other than the Southern States have been received recently at the Department. Presumably, it would seem—how correctly we have no positive means of determining—that their official existence after the 4th of March is not quite so secure as it might be, some of our more calculating friends have been looking out for the next best arrangement.

With the utmost gravity and official formality they proceed to inform the Post Master General, in substance, that other pressing engagements, and (in some cases) sickness in the family, will render it inconvenient if not impossible to longer discharge their duties, with justice to the public or satisfaction to themselves, and most respectfully tender their resignation, to take effect immediately. By way of a postscript, perhaps, as though they had well-nigh forgotten the necessity of a new appointment, it is modestly urged that A. B., who is a friend of the incoming administration, is in all respects a most suitable and acceptable person to be selected to fill the vacancy thus created.

A very slight investigation in some of these cases, (and doubtless a similar motive would be found at the bottom of most of them,) shows that the individual thus recommended is either a partner, relative or intimate friend of the retiring officer, or proposes to share with him the future emoluments of the office.

Each mail arriving is narrowly watched by the parties in the secret, for a notice of the expected acceptance of the resignation, and the "demerits" which are at once to give the fishing touch to this snug little family arrangement, and at the same time produce consternation and disappointment among the other unsuspecting, though less wide-awake candidates for the same elevated position. Days and weeks roll on, and yet no response comes from the Department. What can this negligence on the part of the appointing power mean? A trusty friend is written to at Washington, to call in person and stir up the slow officials to a proper sense of their duty, and to obtain "action" at once, and before it is too late! The call is promptly made, when the anxious agent learns, to his great surprise, that *this thing is an old story*, and well understood at the Department—having, as experience and the files of the Appointment Office will show, been extensively practised under all administrations, but with very indifferent success!

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.—We have received the following interrogatory, from a highly respectable gentleman, who, it is shrewdly suspected, is a candidate for one of the large post offices in Massachusetts:

"Can a post master whose commission does not expire in a year from this time, be displaced, and a new post master be appointed, by the incoming administration—the present incumbent being supposed to fulfil all the duties of the office, and with entire satisfaction to the public?"

ANSWER.—In post masters' commissions emanating from the President, it is stipulated that the appointee is to hold the office for the term of four years, "unless the President of the United States for the time being should be pleased sooner to revoke and determine his (the post master's) commission."

In regard to the smaller class of offices appointed by the Post Master General, no limitation is given in the form of the commissions of appointment.

We hope this information will prove satisfactory to all parties.

MR. EDITOR.—Will not the secession of several States involve the necessity of changing the title of your useful and interesting journal—for surely we are no longer "United States."

Yet there are other ties than mere political ones which serve to unite a people. The interests of commerce and friendship; of art and science; in short, of whatever promotes the well being and progress of civilized life, form bonds of union less distinctly recognized, but no less real and powerful, than those which arise from formal compact. Indeed, the former are the more potent in a certain sense, for they not only include in their embrace each individual,—influencing him not simply as a member of the body politic, but in his various social capacities. But they "grow with the growth" of a nation, and "strengthen with its strength." And there is no department of government so closely and vitally connected with all these interests as that of the Post Office. It is as necessary to the prosperity of a civilized community, as air to the maintenance of life, and we enjoy the benefits of each with about equal unconsciously. But were the mails to be thrown into confusion for a few days only, the nation could realize how intimately the postal system is interwoven with the necessities of business and the pleasures of social life. The experience of our Southern brethren, shows how much easier it is to break loose from all other national ties than from this. But should the worst fears of union-bonding be realized, and our Republic be severed in twain, or even shattered into fragments, intercourse of some sort must yet continue between the different confederacies; and yet but little prophetic discernment is needed to foretell the character of this intercourse,—how fettered it must be by the suspicions and antipathies arising from the circumstances attending the separation,—the hostile and embittered feelings which will have produced so great a calamity, under whose influence it is to be feared that unrestricted intercourse through the mails between the separated sections will be impossible.

Let us hope for the best, however. Meantime we shall retain our original title, the "United States Mail."

ASSISTANT POST MASTER.—The selection of Seymour J. Strong, Esq., to fill the vacancy occasioned by the appointment of Mr. Taylor as Post Master of New York seems to satisfy all parties interested, and none more than his official associates.

At the head of the box delivery, Mr. Strong has been a most unassuming, faithful and obliging officer, and is deservedly popular with the New York public.

A MAIL CARRIER FROZEN TO DEATH.—The late severe weather in the west and northwest has been very trying to those whose duty called them forth to battle with the elements, and to none more than upon that useful class of men, the mail carriers. These men have often to contend with difficulties and dangers that, if met with and overcome on the battle-field, would entitle them, in the estimation of the world, to the title of heroes. But, because the elements are the assailants, instead of armed hosts, they fail to receive that regard to which they are justly entitled.

How little the world at large really know of the privations and hardships of many among the useful class of whom we have been speaking, especially during the inclement season of the year, when, it so happens, the people think more of the punctuality and regularity of the mails than at any other time. It is only when a touching incident like the following occurs, where the forfeiture of life itself is made the cost of fidelity and enterprise, that the services of the poor mail carriers are looked upon with due appreciation—where, in the faithful discharge of his duty, and in the unequal contest with the relentless elements he is obliged to encounter, he falls exhausted and lifeless, solitary and alone, a sacrifice to the public good.

The incident referred to is thus related in the *Harbor (Canada) Signal*:
"The mail for Goderich left Kincardine during the dreadful storm on Thursday morning, at about nine o'clock, in a sleigh drawn by two horses, and in charge of Francis McNab, one of Mr. Holborn's stage drivers. There were no passengers."

When leaving, the mail carrier told the post master that he was afraid he would not be able to reach the next post office. His presentation was verified—he did not live to reach Lurgan, a post office distant about ten miles from Kincardine.

The actual facts, as they occurred during the poor carrier's struggle for life while nobly discharging his duty, are gleaned only from indications which have since been discovered. At about two miles north of Pine River, near where the plains commence, he appears to have unhitched the horses from the sleigh, which he there abandoned—having first neatly done up the lines. He evidently mounted one horse, wrapped himself in the buffalo robe, and with mail bag in front, proceeded, leading the other horse. In this manner he must have travelled some distance, but before he had crossed Pine River bridge, when, probably, becoming benumbed, he abandoned one horse and still toiled on. Some distance further on, the mail bag seems to have fallen, next, a little further, the buffalo robe dropped from his inanimate form, and still a little further and the dead body of the hapless mail carrier came down amid the terrible drifts of snow.

These facts are presumed from the position of the articles when found, and the attitude of the limbs of the unfortunate man when discovered. This mail route is a dreadfully cold one, being exposed to the north and west winds from Lake Huron, nearly the whole way, and it does not appear that the deceased made any attempt to stop at any one of the many houses along the road.

Francis McNab was about 40 years of age, and unmarried. He is said to have a mother and sister living somewhere near Ottawa City. The horses were recovered alive on Saturday last, in a very bad condition—one of them was found some distance out on the ice on the lake."

ADVICE TO LETTER-WRITERS.—We think it advisable to make a few suggestions to letter-writers, which, if complied with, will save the post office employees much time and trouble, and at the same time will tend to insure the more speedy and safe transmission of letters.

Never seal your letter until you are sure that the contents thereof is all right; as instances have often come under our observation, where the writers, through carelessness, have omitted to make certain enclosures, which it was their intention to have done. Place the stamp on the upper right-hand corner of the letter. Write on the address simply the name, post office, county and state. The names of country seats, as "Rose Hill," "Forest Lawn," etc., should be avoided in the address, as there are sometimes post offices of the same name, and the letters are liable to be missent.

If you deposit a mail letter in a lamp-post box or station office, do not forget to place a one cent government stamp on it, in addition to the three cent, to pay the carrier's fee, or considerable detention and consequent annoyance will be incurred. In depositing your letters in the "drop" at the post office, be careful you do not empty the entire contents of your pockets in the same repository, and thus find yourself minus certain miscellaneous articles, the sudden disappearance of which you are at a loss to account for. From the miscellaneous character of the contents of the "drop baskets" it would seem that some people consider the post office a sort of savings' institution; bank bills, checks, drafts, etc., being often found here, without the slightest evidence—at least as far as the bank notes are concerned—as to who are the proper owners. Pocket-books, pen-knives, night-keys, ferry-tickets, pea nuts, and in fact merchandise—in a small way—of almost every description finds its way through the "drops"—the property of "no one in particular, and every body in general."

While on this subject we would say that postage stamps are frequently found loose in the baskets, while many letters are discovered with nothing to show that they have ever been properly paid—we would inform parties interested, that this manner of procedure is not a very strong guarantee of the speedy transmission of their letters, as all such are held for postage.

My Wife's Sister.

The most ridiculous errors and omissions sometimes occur on the part of persons applying to post masters for missing letters. The following amusing correspondence will illustrate this phase of post office experience.—*New York, 29th Jan., 1855.*

Dear Sir,
A week ago last Monday, I mailed two letters, both having enclosures, but of no intrinsic value, directed to my wife's sister in New Haven, Conn., neither of which have ever reached their destination.

Very respectfully yours,
W. B. H.

The above letter was forwarded to the post-

master of New Haven, after having been read by the New York post master. It was soon returned with the following pertinent inquiries: Post Office, New Haven, Conn., Feb. 1, 1855.
Sirs:—

Well, that is a fix! What is that name? Is it Jonathan or Wm. B. Howell, or Herschel? Who'd be marry? How many sisters did his wife have? What were their names? Who are their friends and relations in New Haven? Is the lady here on a visit? Or, like a careful matron, has she come here to educate her children? Fgad, I don't know! My library is woefully deficient in genealogy, and I shall be obliged to "give it up." Who can tell me the name of my wife's sister?"

Yours truly,
L. A. T.
The New Haven post master's letter was then sent to Mr. H., with the annexed note:—
Post Office, New York, Feb. 2, 1855.
Mr. Wm. B. H.

Dear Sir,
By direction of the post master, I forwarded your letter of inquiry to the post master at New Haven.

He returns the letter to this office with a request that the name of your "wife's sister" may be given to him, as he has been unable to discover it, although possessed of a large library embracing many works of a genealogical character. The P. M. at New Haven is inclined to the belief that it will be difficult to find the letter sent to his office, unless the name of the party addressed is given to him. In this belief the P. M. at New York joins, and the two P. M.'s. hold concurrent opinions on this subject.

With all due apologies for the seemingly gross ignorance of the post masters in this matter, I am very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
W. B. H.,
Secretary.

"Ten years among the Mail Bags!"

Answers to Inquirers.

Since our last issue, we have received a number of inquiries on various points, answers to some of which may be found in the following synopsis of the regulations and decisions of the Department:—

FREE NEWS-PAPERS.—Home city subscribers to weekly newspapers can receive the same free of postage, if they reside in the county in which the paper is printed and published, even if the office to which the paper is sent is without the county provided it is the office at which they regularly receive their mail matter.

COMMISSIONS.—The post master who collects the postage on newspapers, periodicals, magazines, &c., quarterly or yearly in advance, is entitled to the commissions on the same, although he may go out of office immediately thereafter, and the paper or the periodical be delivered by his successor. He should, however, leave in the office a record of all such payments.

DELIVERING LETTERS.—Post masters cannot deliver letters from their respective offices, which may be addressed to and delivered at other offices.

Under no circumstances can a post master open a letter not addressed to himself.

Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be retained without being chargeable with postage.

DEPARTMENT FILES.—Copies of papers on the files of the Post Office Department are not furnished on the application of individuals, except where a suit is commenced and pending, and on certificate of counsel that such copy is material to be used in evidence in such suit. Nor are papers allowed to be withdrawn from its files, after a copy has been taken in the case to which they relate.

DELIVERING AND RECEIVING MAILS.—The Department, as a general rule, expects mail carriers to deliver and receive the pouches at the door of a post office. On stage and coach routes, the drivers are to place their teams as near the post office door as practicable, but not to leave their seats for the purpose of exchanging the mail bags.

On railroad routes, the messengers, and others connected therewith, are to hand up the mail bags to the baggage masters or route agents, and not to leave them on the ground near the cars.

THE SOUTHERN MAILS.—The mails for all Southern points, (except Pensacola, Florida) continue to be regularly forwarded from and received at the New York and other Northern post offices. Mail matter for Pensacola is sent to Washington, that office having been discontinued by order of the Post Master General.

Inquiry is made as to the disposition of mail matter intended for an office which has been abolished. Send it to the office nearest the extinct office, without additional postage charge, unless otherwise requested by the proper parties.

TO PUBLISHERS.—Cannot newspaper and other publishers be induced to pay more close attention to the manner in which persons employed to address packages for the mails execute the work assigned them? In many cases this is done in the most reckless manner, and both the parties directly interested, and the P. O. Department, suffer in consequence.

PAYMENTS TO HONG KONG.—A subscriber asks what is the postage on pamphlets to Hong Kong, China, as our postage table is silent on the subject.

ANSWER.—As our present postal treaty with Great Britain makes no provision on the point referred to, pamphlets and periodicals to Hong Kong must be charged with letter postage and be prepaid.

Can comic valentines be sent through the post office, in unsealed envelopes, for one cent each?

They can, if less than three ounces.

If an editor of a weekly newspaper deposits in a post office quantity of his papers directed to subscribers residing in the same town where the paper is printed, is the post master obliged to deliver them free of postage, or without any compensation? Certainly he is, under the law as it now stands, which provides for the free transmission through the mails of all weekly newspapers within the county where published.

A subscriber inquires why letters having the business card printed on the envelope, when the letter cannot be delivered, may not be returned to the writer without going to Washington, the same as when the name of the writer is written on the envelope.

The reason will no doubt suffice. Thousands of letters are written in hotels and stores, by parties not belonging there, and put into envelopes having the card of the hotel or firm, printed thereon. It would really be seen that much confusion and injury would arise if such letters were returned according to the aforesaid business cards.

If business firms should incorporate into their printed cards a request to return the letter if not called for, it is quite probable the Post Master General would decide that such request could be complied with under the law.

Will the dim in Salem, Mass., who wrote us as to pamphlet postage to Hong Kong, please again send us their address?

UNITED STATES MAIL

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No. 7.

Parting Scene.

On the occasion of the withdrawal of Hon. Joseph Holt from the Post Office Department, to assume the duties of Secretary of War, an interesting and impressive scene transpired, an account of which we should have before published but for its accidental failure to reach us, having been promptly forwarded by the hand of a friend at Washington. It is presumed, however, that but very few of our readers have before had an opportunity of perusing it:—

"The whole force of the Post Office Department assembled in the great hall of the building devoted to its use, to take leave of the retiring Postmaster General, the Hon. Joseph Holt.

Mr. King, Acting Postmaster General, addressed a few earnest words of leave-taking to Mr. Holt, and introduced Mr. Trot, one of the principal clerks of the Department, as having been deputed to address him more at large.

Mr. Trot said he had accepted with pleasure the honor thus conferred upon him, for this was not to him an occasion of unmingled sorrow, but of gladness rather. He regretted as deeply as any of the gentlemen clustered around him, Mr. Holt's withdrawal from the Department, but his regret was more than overborne by the gratifying consideration that this withdrawal was only from one sphere of duty in the service of his country to another and a higher one—to a post which, according to the established scale of official rank here, is always more prominent than this, and is now especially, the post of honor and of responsibility. Besides, he knew Mr. Holt would leave the Department imbued with his own spirit, and its administration in hands eminently fit to conduct it.

Mr. Trot then proceeded as follows:

Mr. Postmaster General: You came to preside over this Department at a season of gloom and of great pecuniary embarrassment and obstruction. Almost any intelligent landsman could, with a little experience, guide a staunch, well-trimmed ship over smooth seas, wafted by favorable breezes; but, sir, it would take a seaman of commanding ability to enter newly upon the charge of that ship, all unused, as it must be, to her peculiar qualities, at a moment of peril, when the sudden storm had just "taken her aback" and laid her over on her beam-ends; his first pressing duty to struggle with the tempest; to take in sail under difficulties; to "haul taut and heave" the good ship to her just bearings; and finally, to make all snug and safe aloft and aloft, and put her on her true course. An exhibition like this, sir, of skill, power, and manliness, has always excited my admiration more than any other that can be presented in the whole circle of human exertion. Should not this gallant service command the gratitude of the owners of that ship, and the applause of her officers and crew?

Such a service, sir, you have performed for this department of the government, and seem destined to perform a not dissimilar service for another. But allow me to pursue my nautical illustration. Shall not the owner of this great mail ship—the people of the United States; and shall not we, the officers and crew, who have helped to pull the ropes, to "haul taut and heave" under your direction, the "sheets, lifts and braces," until the good ship is under snug sail, and heading well up to her true course; shall not we especially, express to you our approbation and applause? It is for this mainly, sir, that we have desired to meet you on this occasion. Some of us have had little opportunity to cultivate personal relations with you, sir, but we have all seen and known with what quick intelligence you comprehended and commanded your position, with what inflexible justice, firmness and ability—and with what consideration and kindness withheld—you have conducted the business of this Department through a period of difficulty.

The keen regret we should otherwise feel, that you are about to relinquish your official control over us, is, on the part of many of us, greatly diminished by our knowledge that, with a lofty patriotism which disdained to measure the difficulties frowning in your path, and swerving neither to the right nor to the left, to the North nor the South, from the line of duty, you have already carried into another disorganized department of the government, the influence of those high qualities which have distinguished your administration in this, and that you leave us now only to continue, and, as we trust, complete the good work which you have recently begun and carried on there, so much to the relief and approbation of a great majority of your countrymen.

Many public men, sir, become more or less famous in their own day, whose names are soon swept down the torrent of time and forgotten. Very few have the opportunity, and of these only a small number have the ability, to engrave their names deeply on the tablets of imperishable history. May it not be, sir, that events now in rapid progress may place your high up in that bright and durable record?

We know, sir, that you deprecate applause and disclaim any special merit in having followed the path of duty, which neither your judgment nor conscience would allow you to depart from. You will aver not only that it was difficult to find that path, but that it would have been very difficult for an enlightened patriot to find any other. It is precisely because you think and act thus, sir, that we cannot withhold our applause. Many who would vainly pursue the path of duty, find it straight, narrow, and dark. Falling to light it up by their own resolute faith, and their confidence in the right, they soon make it a wide and devious way in striving to avoid the difficulties and perils that beset it. They hear the roar of lions in the path and turn aside. You, sir, have doubtless found the path somewhat narrow, but straight and bright; still illumined by your patriotic vision by the past glories of this Union, and even by a few bright beams of light from your hope and confidence in the future, which still at intervals pierce the dark cloud overhanging the present. But, sir, I have too long delayed the true purpose of my appointment, which is to bid you, in the name of us all, an earnest, cordial farewell.

The Postmaster General replied as follows:—

GENTLEMEN: I am grateful for this interview, and yet more grateful for the flattering words which, on his own and your behalf, have been so kindly addressed to me by my good friend, Col. Trot. These words, as tokens of your confidence and good will, will ever be treasured up with fondness and with pride.

You all remember the circumstances of discouragement and gloom—to which so impressive an allusion has been made—under which, a little less than two years ago, I entered on the administration of this Department. Upon what has been since accomplished, or upon what we have striven to accomplish here, in advancement of the public interests, it is not for me, but for the country to pronounce its judgment. I should, however, be unjust to you, were I not to declare—which I do, with emphasis and pleasure—that whatever of success may have marked the administration of this Department since it has been in my charge, has been due to the patient faithfulness and zeal with which all around me have discharged their respective duties. And, while recalling this period of embarrassment, it is a source of unspeakable gratification to me to know that no jarring or unpleasant incident has for a moment marred our personal or official intercourse. If there have been at times thorns upon my path, they have not been strewn by your hands.

When I first greeted you the promise was made that, to the utmost of my power, the feelings, the interests, and the reputation of all connected with the postal service should be protected. Earnest as have been my endeavors to redeem this pledge, it can scarcely be expected that I have been entirely successful. If, however, I have unbaptly wounded the sensibilities or invaded the rights of any, I have done so unwittingly, and beg to be forgiven.

We first met amid gloom, and it is now our fortune to separate with the shadow of another sad benediction resting upon our hearts. One of the oldest, the most faithful, and the longest tried of the public servants belonging to this Department, has passed away, and I should be untrue to your feelings, as to my own, did I not bear this open testimony to the fidelity with which he gave his life to his country.

Long placed at the head of one of the most arduous and perplexing of the bureaus connected with the service, amid all the harassments and toil, the responsibilities and the temptations of his position, he bore himself with surpassing ability—with a loyalty to his trust which no blandishments or pressure from without could compromise, and with an honor which lived and has died as stainless as the snow-flake from the skies. He has gone from us, but our loss has proved his greater gain. He has been transplanted to the field of labor to that of rest—from hope to fruition; for those very virtues which so adorned and ennobled his character, while he was yet with us, are the wings which have borne his spirit, as is our steadfast trust, to its great reward.

I will only add, gentlemen, that whatever may be the varied fortunes of your future life, and whatever may be the final fate of our sorrowing and distracted country, in whose service you are, it is my fervent prayer, that you may be each personally blessed, and that you may carry with you no bitter or unpleasant recollection of the brief period that, in toil and in duty, we have been associated together."

"Hon. W. H. Dundas.

MANUFACTURE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.—DIFFICULTY OF COUNTERFEITING, &c.—The public at large have so much to do with postage stamps that they must feel more or less interested in everything relating to the manufacture and distribution of these useful, indispensable, and potent articles, and the degree of risk incurred in the production and sale of spurious, or counterfeit representatives of postage. We therefore copy from the Philadelphia *American and Gazette* the following interesting article on this subject:

"The whole business is done by the eminent firm of bank note engravers of this city, Toppan, Carpenter & Co., and its details are personally directed by the Messrs. Carpenter. The fourth story of the fire proof building of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is exclusively occupied by the operations connected with the preparation of postage stamps, all the materials being received there in the simplest form, and the completed stamps are delivered to the government itself in one of the rooms. Every step in the process is as rigidly guarded as is the engraving and printing of bank notes, the conductor of each process carefully accounting to the next for each sheet of paper which enters his hands, and the superintendent requiring the delivery to him at the last, of every sheet, whether accidentally injured or not, and every item of defaced paper is preserved with proper labels for a time, and burned when that stated time has elapsed. In short, the process in this respect is identical with that observed in printing bank notes, notwithstanding the value expressed by the stamps are comparatively trivial.

The engraving itself is by the best artists employed on bank notes, and each stamp may be said to embrace several distinct branches of the art. But one original die or stamp is cut for each denomination of postage, and from this single die two hundred copies are produced on steel plates actually printed from—the sheets taken by the government being half this sheet, or of one hundred stamps each. As every stamp of the denomination of three cents, for instance, is thus actually struck from a single die, the ridiculous absurdity of the assertion that they may differ when closely examined, is apparent. In the single point of engraving, every difficulty experienced by the counterfeiter of a bank note, is in the way of counterfeiting the three cent stamp, while the reward of success is too trivial to repay the attempt.

Again, the inks and colors used are peculiar: all are prepared in the establishment, where they are the subject of careful experiment, and both indelible and fading elements of color are chosen for special purposes. The color is a perfect security against photographic counterfeiting, stucco they cannot be discharged and again

reproduced on the photograph. The perforation is also a perfect security against photography, and all the sheets now issued are perforated. This process of perforation is effected by costly and peculiar machines, worth several thousand dollars each, and entirely beyond the power of counterfeiter to reproduce. A great improvement has been made on the British machines used for this purpose, and adjustable cylinders now replace the direct action press first used for this purpose, enabling the artists to work the sheets without loss.

Another process, which involves much cost and risk to a counterfeiter, is that of gumming and repressing the sheets. The gum used is peculiar, and not easily imitated; the drying of the sheets after it is applied, and their subsequent pressure until the original dimensions and texture are perfectly restored, are all processes requiring peculiarly favorable circumstances, and much expense. Very slight differences of texture or finish in any stamps used, would at once attract notice from the officers, and no second establishment could exactly reproduce fac similes of the work of the first and genuine one, even if working without care for secrecy or reserve.

The establishment of the Messrs. Carpenter is a model of care and accuracy throughout, and less energy of supervision, or a less heavy investment of skill and capital, would render it impossible to prosecute the business. Indeed, it is clear that these gentlemen state the case truly, in saying that they could not themselves counterfeited the work at a profit, so expensive would the processes become when the risks of counterfeiting were to be encountered, and so small would be the profits on the vending of values so small as are expressed by postage stamps.

The government also knows perfectly well what is the quantity of stamps it has in hand, what is the number cancelled, and what is the number distributed to the various districts. It is safe to say that the officers of the post office department would have detected the introduction of ten or fifteen dollars' worth of counterfeit stamps at any part of the country by this simple relation of demand and supply. The whole affair has its origin in a corrupt combination to discredit stamps, and exact other modes of paying postage, and out of the confusion it is hoped to excite, fat contracts are anticipated for certain parties. With the attempt to break down a Philadelphia house for such a purpose we have certainly something to do, and the operators may be assured that, if the attempt is persisted in, the exposure will be thorough and effective.

The opportunity was given by this incident to witness the accurate and unerring working of the machinery of bank note engraving, (for such is this making of postage stamps) and cavilers may be assured that the processes now in use by the best engravers are unusually secure from imitation. For the values represented by these stamps, counterfeiting is simply impossible, and error in the establishment itself is impossible. The checks and registry, which are rigidly adhered to, render material error out of the question, and if the operations at Washington do not greatly change from the habit and the order enforced at present, there can be no serious confusion anywhere."

Letter Carrier System.

The system by which a large portion of the people of so important a city as New York, are daily supplied with their post office correspondence, should be better and more generally understood than it is at present. Within a few years past great improvements have been made, the good effects of which cannot have escaped public attention, and yet perfection has by no means been achieved, owing to causes entirely beyond the control of those who have had and are now having the charge of this difficult and laborious branch of our postal service. Many desired improvements calculated materially to facilitate the delivery of letters, have been rendered impossible by the cramped and inferior accommodations afforded by the present poor apology for a post office, in Nassau street. For instance, city "drop letters," intended for delivery in different parts of the city, are, of necessity, dropped into the same depositories with the thousands of letters and circulars to go out by the mails. It no doubt often thus happens that the time consumed in collecting them together, throws some of them over the regular departure of the messengers employed to convey them to the distant stations, and of course the final delivery is somewhat delayed. Many cases of this kind come to light daily. With the present limited room, it is found impossible to arrange a suitable special receptacle for this class of letters. There are many other embarrassments and hindrances resulting from the same general cause. It is to be hoped that those who have felt it their duty to thwart every effort of the government to furnish a new post office, with suitable postal conveniences, have not suffered, and will not hereafter themselves suffer inconvenience and loss, as the result of their labors.

For some twenty-two years past the Letter Carriers' department has been under the superintendence of John H. Hallet, Esq., a faithful and enterprising officer, who has made the most of the facilities afforded him, and the legislation from time to time, on this subject. In 1849 important changes were authorized by Congress, as also in 1853, when the present up-town stations were established, and the carriers and deliveries increased.

An additional and important "station" has just been established by order of the Postmaster General, at 1259 Broadway, between 31st and 32d streets, which will no doubt answer the purposes of a sub-post office, demanded for that locality by a large number of citizens. General Dix, late postmaster, strongly urged this measure in his recent interesting report to the Post-

master General, and the suggestion has just been adopted.

Believing that some parts of the able report referred to will be acceptable to all who wish to know more of the machinery of the letter carrier system in this city, we give the following extracts:

"I deem it my duty to present to you a full statement of the condition of the system of collecting and delivering letters in this city by carriers and mail messengers. From the time of its establishment it has been steadily increasing in importance, and it has become, from the magnitude of its operations, a subject of the deepest interest to the inhabitants, not merely as regards their correspondence with each other, but that also which extends beyond the limits of the city. The regular and prompt delivery of letters to those to whom they are addressed, and the equally punctual delivery at the post office of such as are to be transmitted by mail, constitute the whole value of such a system, and no effort has been spared to give it the necessary efficiency in these respects.

To facilitate the receipt, delivery, and transmission of letters written here, and to expedite the delivery of those received by the mails, and addressed to persons within the city, six stations have been established in different localities; the nearest about one mile and a half from the post office, and the most distant about three miles. Each of these stations is in charge of a superintendent, assisted by a clerk, and in two cases by two clerks. To each station is attached a corps of letter carriers, varying from seven, at the lowest, to thirteen, the highest number. The principal office may be regarded as a station for the purpose of collecting and delivering letters. It has twenty-nine carriers attached to it, requiring, from its location in the business part of the city, a much larger force than the stations proper. From these stations, and from the principal office, the carriers depart four times a day to deliver letters to the persons to whom they are addressed within certain allotted districts. The whole number of carriers is eighty-nine.

The carrier's department at the post office is organized under a superintendent, with a corps of clerks, whose principal duty it is to receive and assort all letters intended to be delivered by carriers. These letters are separated and sent seven times a day to the respective stations from which they go out for delivery. The hours of departure from the post office and arrival at the upper station are as follows:

Leave post office at 6:30, a. m.
Arrive at upper station at 7:15, a. m.
Leave post office at 7, a. m.
Arrive at upper station at 8, a. m.
Leave post office at 10, a. m.
Arrive at upper station at 10:45, a. m.
Leave post office at 11, a. m.
Arrive at upper station at 12:05, p. m.
Leave post office at 12:30, p. m.
Arrive at upper station at 1:15, p. m.
Leave post office at 3, p. m.
Arrive at upper station at 3:45, p. m.
Leave post office at 4:30, p. m.
Arrive at upper station at 4:30, p. m.

This service is performed by two wagons and two mail messengers. On their return from the stations, six times a day, they bring with them to the post office letters to be transmitted by mail, and letters to be delivered in the lower part of the city.

As soon as the letters dispatched to the stations at the 2d, 4th, 5th and 7th of the above-named periods of departure from the post office are assorted, they are taken out and delivered by the carriers to the persons to whom they are addressed. The deliveries commence at the post office at 8:30, a. m., 11:30, a. m., 1:30, p. m., and 3:15, p. m. At the stations the first delivery commences at 8:30, a. m., and the three other deliveries somewhat later than the hours fixed for those at the post office.

Thus it will be seen that all letters received at the post office, and at the stations addressed to persons within the limits of the city, are delivered four times each day. On Sunday no deliveries are made.

The carriers' deliveries do not now go further north than Fifty-fifth street, but they will be extended with the growth of the city. In order to give further facilities for correspondence, 574 cast-iron street boxes, for the reception of letters, have been affixed to the lamp posts, so distributed as to embrace every portion of the city below Fifty-fifth street, and the letters deposited therein are taken out four times a day and carried to the post office, or to the nearest station. For this purpose, twenty-eight collectors or collecting carriers are employed. The collections commence at 8 and 10 o'clock, a. m., and at 1:30 and 9 o'clock, p. m. On Sunday the 9 o'clock, p. m., collection only is made. Until recently, the last collection in the day was made at 7, p. m., too late an hour for the afternoon mails, and too early for letters written in the evening. The change from 7 to 9, p. m., accomplishes a two-fold object: it secures the transmission by the morning mails of letters written before 9 in the evening, without putting the writers to the expense and inconvenience of sending them to the post office; and the boxes being cleared of their contents before the streets are deserted, the danger of depredation is effectually guarded against.

The letters collected from the lamp-post boxes within about one mile of the post office, are carried directly to the office. Those collected from boxes more remote, are carried directly to the nearest stations, to be sent out for delivery by the carriers, if addressed to persons in the upper districts, or to be taken to the post office, if intended for transmission by the mails, or to be delivered in the lower part of the city. To secure a more prompt delivery of city letters, they are exchanged between the stations as soon as possible after the collections are made.

It is not generally understood that there are six post offices on the island of New York, and, of course, within the city, for the corporate limits embrace the whole island. There is one at Yorkville, about five and a half miles from the city; one at Manhattanville, about seven and a half miles; one at Harlem, about seven and a half miles; one at Washington Heights, about nine miles; and one at King's Bridge, about ten miles.

Above 118th street, the island diminishes in width rapidly, and continues very narrow to its northern extremity at King's Bridge. From the peculiar conformation of the island, if it were now in its upper portions as compactly built up, and as densely peopled as it is in the lower part of the city, all the postal facilities it would need could be furnished by means of the six post offices and six stations already established, with the addition of a station near 35th street, in the Sixth Avenue, and another in the neighborhood of Bloomingdale. The five up-town post offices may be made, like this office and its stations, centers of radiation for the delivery of letters by carriers; and, by the establishment of street boxes, as the city extends, for the collection of letters, and boxes for delivery at the stations, when they shall be called for, the wants of the city will be amply provided for. There is already a carrier at the Yorkville post office, who goes out three times a week with the letters which have not been called for; but, as there is no provision by law for paying him except by his fees, he cannot afford to make more frequent deliveries. They will increase as that part of the city fills up, and its correspondence is sufficient to pay for the service. It would certainly be very desirable that there should be a free delivery throughout the city, but this would require an annual appropriation of about one hundred thousand dollars from the public treasury by Congress, at the present time, and a corresponding addition to that amount every year, as the city extends.

It would also be desirable to increase the number of daily deliveries from four to six, making an average of one in two hours for each day of medium length throughout the year. But to perform this additional service, about sixty more carriers would be required, and a further expenditure of at least \$30,000 per annum.

Rhyming, Etc.

The "Post's license" still continues to be exercised upon the envelopes of letters committed to the post office. We hope our readers will find in the following, some slight improvement in comparison with former specimens. We confess we do not:

Come, now, honest old Abe, it's an office I'm wanting;
I've been everything, from a Whig to a Know-nothing;
In politics, sure I'm something of a novice,
But that's no reason why I shouldn't have the post office.
My qualifications are some of the best,
For as a Wide-Awake, truly, I beat all the rest.
I am as poor as the devil, but of course that's no sin,
So give me the office, for I'm in want of the Tin.

To HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
Washington, D. C.

From
FITCHBURGH, MASS.
God save the Commonwealth of Mass.

For S. M. READ this note is meant,
And so to "RYE" it must be sent;
But as a note for him is rare,
I send it in his Uncle's care.
His Uncle, "Smith," is called by name,
With William H. before the same,
On North street, at the latest date,
Westchester county, New York State.

Postman, postman, haste away,
To Mr. JENK'S, the printer,
And to his eldest daughter give
This little scrap of paper.
In Sixth street the lady you will find, sir,
With rosy cheeks and laughing eyes,
And disposition kind, sir;
If you're inclined, you this may say,
That I shall wait upon her,
And state my views of love and truth,
Upon my word and honor.

Oh, lovely Louisiana,
And hast thou, too, seceded;
Thy crescent city was our pride,
And thy cotton we much needed,
Though a Northerner they call me,
Yet I love—adore—admire—
One of thy gifted sons,
T. J. CASTELL, Esq.,
New Orleans,
Southern Confederacy.

Bad news you take, but don't delay,
Surely your postage they will pay;
Go on, go on, and never stop,
Till you reach FLANDIN at GOOD HOPE;
If Capt. ADAM is his son,
Then quickly find his son ISHIA!

Uncle Sam, you good old son,
Carry me to ARTHUR COLE,
Who in the famous town of TROT,
Has lived ever since he was a boy.

A DUTCH LETTER—Copy of a letter recently brought to the New York post office to be translated:
Nashville, 27th Feb., 1861.

Dir Seer,
I Hir yn bui brass and cohar lect an pruitser,
send me the prais woht yn Pae for dis artigels
mni tiraktshen is Peter Lewinson No Boxs 348.

[TRANSLATED.]

Dear Sir:
I hear you buy brass and copper, lead and powder. Send me the prices what you pay for these articles. My direction is
Peter Lewinson,
No. Box, 348

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1861.

No. 8.

The Mail Bag.

A modern essay "Of Vicissitudes of Things" might materially extend Bacon's enumeration, especially if it were to treat of vicissitudes in a more particular way than he has done. Shakespeare has a touch on the same subject:

"Imperious Caesar, dead, and turned to clay,
Might stop a hole to keep the wind away.
O, that the earth which kept the world in awe,
Should patch a wall to expel the winter's flaw."

There is something attractive to the imagination in the various changes and casualties which befall even inanimate objects. The old house, falling into ruin—how easily does the fancy picture it with a long succession of inhabitants—fathers, and mothers, and children, who have been sheltered by its roof, and who have acted their drama of life within and around its walls! The poetic instinct, of which few are wholly destitute, gives a sort of vitality to the ancient domicile, and we almost feel as if its deserted hearths and empty rooms must retain some memories of the scenes which they witnessed before the fires were for the last time extinguished, and while yet the apartments ring with the voice of laughter, or softly echoed the sob of grief.

"A mail bag," as we have said elsewhere, "is an epitome of life," and it is not exempt from the chances and changes which beset every human being and human device. The wide range and peculiar nature of its experiences, from its entrance into the public service, fresh and young, and resplendent with brass and iron, to its final dismissal into obscurity, an old and worn out veteran in office, offer no small attractions to the speculative mind, and will not, perhaps, be found unworthy of the attention of our readers.

Many of the tribe of mail bags can trace their descent from a hempen origin, while others are related to the Bull family, canvas and leather being the principal materials used in their construction. The leathern pouch now quickly jogging along in its daily routine of duty, may once have covered the sides of some noble ship, of the herd, and roamed, post-free, over the plains of South America. Like a candidate for West Point, or a recruit for the army, the mail bag must undergo the scrutiny of an inspector, in order to determine whether it is able-bodied and fit to endure the rough-and-tumble life to which it is destined. It is the ever-flying shuttle which weaves together the threads of social and commercial intercourse, and aids in developing the many-colored pattern of a nation's life—the grave and the gay, the light and shade, ever mingling and contrasting. In the discharge of its important duties it is exposed to innumerable perils by land and water. It may be engulfed in the ocean, sinking in some noble ship, which carries down with it not only its precious charge of human lives, but a treasure of thought and affection destined never to reach those for whom it was hopefully sent on its voyage to distant lands. "The dark, unfathomed caves of ocean" have received many of these dead letters, but it is not the way of the sea often to return anything upon which it has once laid its grasp.

The mail bag occasionally plunges through a railroad bridge, and is no match for its aqueous enemy, which enters the sacred precincts, despoiling locks and fastenings, unseals letters, and either washes the ideas entirely out of them, or leaves the characters which represent them poor, pale, meagre ghosts of their former selves. And not content with this piece of mischief, it reduces newspapers to their primitive pulpy state, fusing translucent and antagonistic editorials into a soft and homogeneous mass, wonderfully contrasting with their former sharp and hard individuality.

Our leathern functionary is also exposed to the assaults of the mail-robber, whose taste for letters shows itself in a very unclassical way. He has a passion for autographs, especially those of bank presidents and cashiers, and he would meet with no checks except those payable to A. B. or bearer. He despises *billet doux*, and regards only *billets de banque*. In such hands the mail bag fares badly. It is speedily relieved of its burden by this mail accoucher, and loses its portliness like Falstaff. "Am I not fallen away vilely since this last action? Do I not bate? Do I not dwindle? Why, my skin hangs about me like an old lady's loose gown."

But the mail bag not unfrequently has its revenge; for its mutilated remains sometimes appear in court to confront the criminal, and to aid materially in procuring his conviction, as, for example, in the Rutland case, which is detailed in a former number of the MAIL.

For fear of drawing too largely on our readers' sympathy, we forbear to extend our enumeration of the ills that mail bags are heir to, and would rather glance at the nature of their contents—so oddly compounded—a chaos of thoughts and languages—love and hate sleeping for the time quietly side by side; rascality and innocence lying down together like the lion (or the wolf) and the lamb; defiant editorials, big with pent-up thunders, and perhaps the MAIL, maintaining a sort of official supervision.

It would be interesting to calculate (were this possible) the amount of effect of different kinds which the contents of each mail bag produce in the place to which they are brought; the new ideas which are introduced, the change of plans, the various emotions which result from each day's arrivals. Such an estimate, however, is

beyond the reach of statistics, and the amount of moral and intellectual power which is daily set in motion by the mails, is incalculable by any known rule of dynamics.

But even a leathern constitution must yield in time. Joints become rheumatic, and as man sometimes succumbs to "stitches in the side," so mail bags give out for want of them, and are assigned to oblivion, to end their days in some official Hospital of Incurables.

Post Office History.

Prior to the year 1689 the American colonists appear to have depended on chance, or private arrangements, for the transmission of letters. But, in that year, it appears from the records of the General Court of Massachusetts, that that colony took the subject in hand by issuing the following order, viz:

"That notice be given that Richard Fairbanks, his house in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters which are brought from beyond the seas, or are to be sent thither, are to be left with him; and he is to take care that they are to be delivered or sent according to directions; and he is allowed for every letter 1d., and must answer all miscarriages through his own neglect in this kind; provided, that no man be compelled to having his own letters (sent) except he please."

Dr. Snow, in his history of Boston, says:—"Something like the rudiments of a post office is discoverable in the colony records, in May, 1697, when, upon the petition of several merchants of Boston, Mass., the court appointed John Hayward, scrivener, to take in and convey letters according to their directions."

A few years prior to this, the Colonial Legislature of Virginia, with a view to secure the speedy transit of public dispatches from the seat of government to the interior of the province, passed a law requiring each plantation to provide a messenger to convey such dispatches to the next plantation on the route, with the greatest speed, under a penalty of one hog's-head of tobacco.

In 1672, in pursuance of "his majesty's commands," Governor Lovelace, of the New York Colony, established "a post to go monthly" between New York and Boston. This, it is probable, was the first organization of a mail route in America.

In 1683, the Proprietary Governor of Pennsylvania, the celebrated William Penn, established a post office at Philadelphia, and authorized Henry Waldy, of Takony, "to supply passengers with horses from Philadelphia to New Castle, or to the Falls of Delaware," notice of the departure of which was to be carefully posted "on the meeting-house door, and other public places."

In January, 1692, letters patent were issued by the British Crown to Thomas Neal, authorizing him, his executors and assigns, to organize post offices and post routes in America, for the period of twenty-one years. He appointed Col. Andrew Hamilton, of New Jersey, his Postmaster General for the Colonies.

The Colonial Council of New York, in the same year, established a post office at New York City.

In 1710, Col. Hamilton having resigned his privileges to the British Government, the establishment was consolidated with that of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Crown appointed a Postmaster General for America. A chief letter office was to be kept in New York, and other similar offices in some convenient place or places, in each of her majesty's provinces or colonies in America.

Under this act John Campbell was appointed postmaster at Boston. He was a bookseller in that city, of Scotch extraction, and had published there, in 1704, a weekly newspaper, the first published in America.

In 1711 a weekly mail was conveyed from Boston to Plymouth and Maine, and a fortnightly one from Boston to Connecticut and New York.

In December, 1717, the mail took four weeks to go from Boston to Williamsburg, in Virginia, and double that time in the winter months.

The next event of interest to the general reader in the annals of the Establishment, was the introduction of Dr. Benjamin Franklin to a share in its management; first, in 1737, as postmaster of Philadelphia; and subsequently, in 1738, as Postmaster General, conjointly with Wm. Hunter. Hear him as he writes on this subject in his autobiography:

"In 1737 Col. Spotswood, late Governor of Virginia, and then Postmaster General, being dissatisfied with the conduct of his deputy at Philadelphia, respecting some negligence in rendering, and want of exactness in framing his accounts, took from him the commission and offered it to me. I accepted it readily, and found it of great advantage: for, though the salary was small, it facilitated the correspondence that improved my newspaper, increased the number demanded, as well as the advertisements to be inserted, so that it came to afford me a considerable income."

Again, in reference to his advancement in 1733: "The American office had never hitherto paid any thing to that of Britain. We were to have six hundred pounds a year between us if we could make that sum out of the proceeds of the office." He further states that, during the first four years the business was managed by himself and his partner, the office ran them in debt nine hundred pounds, in consequence of

the improvements they made in the mail service; but that it soon began to repay them, and that, prior to his displacement by a "freak of ministers," on the 29th of January, 1774, they had brought it to yield three times as much clear revenue to the British Crown as the post office of Ireland. He adds: "Since that impudent transaction (his removal,) they have received from it not one farthing."

When the Doctor took charge of the concern in 1753, as during the twenty-five previous years, the mail traveling north of Philadelphia went but once a week in summer, and once a fortnight in winter. One of the improvements directed by his progressive mind was to send it tri-weekly in spring, summer and autumn, and weekly in winter. Another consisted in expediting the posts between New York and Boston, that answers to letters might be obtained in three weeks, instead of six, as before. The renowned philosopher, although endowed with a fertile genius, would, doubtless, have smiled at the suggestion, had some prophetic spirit offered it, that in less than a century thereafter, in consequence of anticipated discoveries in motive power, and in the construction of roads, nine hours would suffice for the purpose.

In 1755, according to the statement of Dr. William Douglass, in his historical and political summary of the British settlements in North America, the regular posts extended only from Portsmouth, N. H., to Philadelphia. An irregular mail—whenever a sufficient quantity of matter offered—was sent South as far as Williamsburg, Virginia, and occasionally this was continued to Charleston, S. C.

On the occurrence of hostilities between the colonists and the mother country, they became dissatisfied with the management of the British officials, and organized a temporary, informal establishment of their own, which they styled the "Constitutional Post Office." They were mainly moved to this procedure by Mr. Goddard, the editor of a very independent newspaper in Philadelphia, who complained of the restrictions laid on its circulation by the British authorities, and who visited most of the large towns for the purpose of delivering harangues, and publishing exciting appeals on the subject. In consequence of the disuse of the British bags and post offices, and the disrespect with which the persons in charge of them were treated by the colonists, the British Postal Secretary in America, Francis Dashwood, issued a printed notice at the city of New York, on the 25th December, 1775, stating that he was compelled, for the time being, to stop all his majesty's posts in the colonies.

One of the first objects of attention by the Provincial Congress, when the colonies revolted against the arbitrary measures of Great Britain, was the post office. On the 10th of May, 1775—more than a year prior to the Declaration of Independence—this venerable body, at its second session, held in Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, passed a resolution setting forth that the critical situation of the colonies rendered it highly necessary to devise ways and means "for the speedy and secure conveyance of intelligence from one end of the Continent to the other." They also appointed a committee for the purpose, consisting of Mr. Franklin and others.

This committee having reported, the same body, on the 26th of July following, resolved to appoint a Postmaster General—unanimously electing Dr. Franklin to the post—who was to hold his office at Philadelphia, and receive a salary of one thousand dollars per annum, with authority to appoint a Secretary and Comptroller, with salaries of three hundred and fifty dollars each, and such number of deputies as he might deem necessary. Also, that the Postmaster General should establish a line of posts from Falmouth in New England, to Savannah in Georgia, with such cross posts as he might think fit. Dr. Franklin appointed Richard Bache, his son-in-law, as his Comptroller, whose duties, doubtless, were to audit the accounts and keep the books of the establishment. The resolutions passed at this time show that Congress invested the Postmaster General with very unrestricted authority in the management of the concern.

On the 7th of November, 1776, Dr. Franklin being absent, the Continental Congress appointed Richard Bache to succeed him, who continued in the office till the 28th of January, 1782, when Ebenezer Hazard, who had rendered important service as a Surveyor of the posts, was elected to the position, which he filled till the debut of the Federal Government, in 1789.

The details recorded in the public archives in relation to the operations of the office between 1775 and 1789, are exceedingly meagre. The statistics presented show that it made little, if any progress during the entire period of about fourteen years, there being at the close thereof but 75 post offices, and 1875 miles of post roads. Its stationary condition was owing, it is presumed, to the prostrating effects of the revolutionary war upon commerce and business generally, and the consequent check upon correspondence.

The little ledger of the Establishment kept by Mr. Bache, in 1776 and 1777, is still to be seen at the Department. It consists of about three quires of foolscap paper, half bound, filled in

with an exceedingly legible hand, and is very properly regarded as an interesting relic.

Stages ran over the road between New York and Philadelphia as far back as 1756, but the first line of mail coaches of which we have an account, was established in pursuance of an act of the Continental Congress, passed on the 7th of September, 1785, to extend from Portsmouth, N. H., to Savannah, Ga.

During the period of the confederation of the colonies, the energies of the office were cramped by its lack of power to arrest depredators on the mails, without the co-operation of the individual colonies in which such arrests were to be made. A stronger arm than the Provincial Congress was needed to supply it with proper authority for this important purpose, as well as adequate resources in other respects. The infant Hercules had hitherto slumbered in his cradle, exhibiting but faint indications of his future strength, when the processes adapted to the development of his powers should be better understood, and when the potent aid of the steam-paddle and the iron horse should be called in to augment his native energy. The legislative authority referred to was supplied by the transfer of the Establishment to the Federal Government, organized in 1789, under our present Constitution.

Post Office Changes.

The Boston Commercial Bulletin comes to the rescue of the "Ins" in gallant style, in an able article, in which some very timely and wholesome truths are set forth, touching the policy of indiscriminate removals among postoffice officials. After alluding to the larger and more lucrative offices, where changes for political reasons are perhaps to be expected, reference is thus made to another class, in which, it is claimed, frequent changes in the incumbents conflict more directly with the interests and convenience of those for whose benefit post offices are established:

"The post offices of our larger towns and our smaller cities, where the postmaster (with an assistant or clerk, perhaps his son) is personally cognizant of every transaction of his office, and is brought directly in contact with every citizen, are by no means sinicure."

Not even a daily newspaper is a more perfect treadmill in the way of labor. The infinitesimal cares make up an aggregate of responsibility heavier than most men are qualified to assume, and a thousand-fold more than ordinarily is exacted from the minuteness of subdivision and distribution. The little mistakes which are lurid through the official's hands in such marvellous numbers, are of no interest in the world to him, but they each have an importance to the writer—the merchant's remittance, the lover's message, the tidings of a death—even his successor's application for his office—are committed to him with confidence, and share equally the mechanical fidelity which he is accustomed to bestow alike on all. He is no respecter of persons. The illiterate Irish girl who craves the favor of a superscription while the "steamer's mail" is closing, and the belated merchant, with his inclosure to pay a city note at bank, appeal to his courtesy with the same title to success. He has a thousand daily opportunities to confer a trivial favor, and a thousand unknown favors are thus conferred without acknowledgment.

The careless correspondent misdirects his letter, and he suggests the correction. The heedless banker deposits his package of checks and drafts unsealed, and he secures the envelope. A publisher's clerk confuses the address of two or three city lists into one, and he returns the bundle carefully for redirection. A wrong initial is inadvertently inserted in a well known address, and he detects the error and saves the letter from the perils of the Dead Letter office. He learns by slow processes all the channels through which the delivery of a "transient" letter may be ventured; for he knows people by neighborhood, the individuals who compose firms and families; not only men's names, but men's wives' names, and the names of sons and daughters, and of sons' wives, and their cousins, and all their kindred, and even of their periodical visitors so accurately, that their occasionally re-appearing correspondence reaches its destination, through his ingenuity with an unexpected certainty. He knows to whose hand another's missive may be entrusted with perfect safety, and in whose it will encounter the risks of dishonesty, or of curiosity.

He carries a thousand confidences in his bosom which he is bound in honor to consider sacred; for it is a necessity of his position that he must know what chrochren are buyers of lottery tickets, and what minister's sons are fanciers of obscene books; that the letters of a wife are addressed in another than a husband's care, and what daughter's correspondence is not intended to fall into "the old folks'" fingers; and the sudden installation of his successor, even if he be fitly chosen, must inevitably upset many of these little arrangements just as surely as it must derange or delay the current of general correspondence, and retard that ready "delivery" of an office which can only be acquired by time and the most constant attention. It is a pity, we think, that the disadvantages of needless or frequent post office changes cannot be felt before, as they invariably are after they have been effected. In that case the power of petition would be exercised in the reverse direction, and remonstrances would go in from every business community which is now favored with an unexceptionable, perhaps favorite postmaster, that would arrest the progress of "rotation" for the benefit of peace-seekers, in a department of the public service where "change of itself is an evil," and should always be regulated by a careful concern for the integrity and efficiency of all incumbents.

If rotation is to be the rule, let the tests of qualification be severely applied, and let the exceptions from the rule be as frequent as they are deserved. There is many an official of moderate views whose experience is worth more to his

community than the influence of all his competitors put together to the Administration; whose untrifling patience and suavity, whose pleasant relations to members of all parties make him a universal favorite; whom the Department can well afford to retain, or rather cannot well afford to spare from the service, and whose re-appointment would redeem a policy which cannot otherwise be vindicated by any other than the spolieman's rule.

THE LATE JUDGE McLEAN.—We make the following extract from a biographical notice of the late Hon. John McLean, who once filled the office of Postmaster General:

"After dignifying the Supreme bench for six years, President Monroe appointed Judge McLean, in the summer of 1822, Commissioner of the Land Office; and, in the next year, he was elevated to the position of Postmaster General. Here he distinguished himself in a highly admirable manner, and drew forth the highest encomiums. He ignored the idea of placing men in office for their political opinions, or because they had served party purposes. He sought out the most suitable men among the applicants, and these he entrusted with the duties of office. They were accepted for their capacity to do duty, and had to do it. Business was attended to, and a most gratifying success was the result. Judge McLean personally superintended the details, and arrived as nearly at perfection as was possible. In consequence, the salary attaching to the office was almost unanimously raised by the Senate and House of Representatives from four to six thousand dollars per annum. Those who rigidly followed party discipline, and opposed the motion, did so reluctantly. As an evidence of the estimation in which Judge McLean's arduous and successful labors were held, the fact may be instanced that John Randolph said the salary was for the office, and not for the man, and that he would vote for the bill if it should be made to expire when Judge McLean left the office. Charles J. Ingersoll has said he was 'the very best postmaster that the country ever had; he discharged the office with industry, punctuality, and economy, and displayed great ability in the arrangements. Judge McLean employed many females in various small towns, and found the postmistresses quite as efficient as the postmasters.' And another writer fills out a sketch of his official career in charge of the post office by characterizing it as marked by the greatest wisdom and moderation."

LETTERS BY PRIVATE HAND.—Of all the "kind offices" solicited on the score of acquaintance or friendship, that of asking one to convey and deliver a letter by private hand is among the most unpleasant and annoying. And it is also the most uncertain mode of conveyance in the world, for we think it may be safely said that not one in ten of those who resort to it, ever get the benefit of a prompt delivery of their communications, but frequently find that they have been resting quietly in the carpet bag or pocket of the obliging private messenger, for days and weeks, entirely forgotten and neglected. Such has been our own experience, both as the sender and receiver of letters by private hand, and we presume that promptness and accuracy in the matter referred to, is the exception and not the rule. Men's thoughts are apt to be upon their own business, and although when they assume such little obligations, they intend to carry them out, yet they often discover to their great mortification, that they have made a miserable failure in their attempt to play private letter carrier. This is our advice, don't send letters which are of the least importance by private hand, if it can possibly be avoided.

Letter Addresses.

"Haste away old engine—thou fiery steed,
Bear me to W. H. Martin by lightning's speed.
You will find him engaged in going about,
Insuring property for fear it burns out.
While receiving an Agent's penny bounty,
From the people of Rushsylvania,
Logan County,
Ohio."

To double u, double o, L-E-Y,
Whose Christian name begins with I.
If he's not tight he'll be at work,
A lumbering at Jackson's Fork,
State of Missouri,
Texas Co.

Oh! Lord, forgive his many sins,
I know he is a rascal,
But thou, Oh Lord, thy mercy show,
To CHARLES FITZ HENRY HASKELL,
Memphis,
Tenn.

"This 'Billet doux' had ue'er been written,
Were it not meant for Albert Sitton,
In Litchfield Hills he lives by thauder,
If not, I fear he has gone under."

A likely Miss is Sally Brown,
Who lives in Pine, New York,
Then take this letter to that town,
In the valley of Mohawk.

To MISTRESS BRIDGET McLEONY,
New York City.
And as the poor cratur can't read, will the postmaster read it to her if he can.

Mrs MARTHA SPALDING,
formerly ROBISON,
now HARRIS,
CLEVELAND, Ohio.

Mister Christoph out of Lancaster,
to Boston.
this letter shall stay in the letter post to Boston till Mr Christoph will fetch him.

too Mr-barney inquire what lives in
3 streets, next door to Tony walnuts
Barber shop, and Right front the
express office where the Big Dog is
to be delivered ameditly. Philadelphia city

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, MAY, 1861.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

Advice to New Postmasters.

A great deal of perplexity and discomfort may be avoided by those about to assume the responsible duties of postmaster, by adopting, at the commencement, and rigidly adhering to certain very simple and reasonable rules in the internal management of their offices.

In small post offices especially, where the net profits to the incumbent depend upon economy in his expenses, the temptation is strong for the employment of assistants and clerks whose services can be obtained at the lowest possible figures, as well as for the selection of cheap and crumpled places for the accommodation of the public. These are, indeed, most troublesome points upon which to tender advice or suggest remedies, inasmuch as they relate to a principle of selfishness difficult to be set aside, especially, we are sorry to admit, in government affairs.

But there is a difference even in those who are willing to put a low price upon their services. Reference should be had to the circumstances, and habits of extravagance or economy of candidates, and particularly to their private history, antecedents, and general standing. There are in every community young and middle-aged men of sterling worth and fixed principles, who can be had on terms the most reasonable, because they have no expensive personal habits, and owing to the peculiar circumstances in which they are placed. The employment of such persons, even at a remuneration a little in advance of what the services of others less reliable or known, could be procured for, would give the public greater satisfaction, and the postmaster himself much more comfort and security.

The neglect of these considerations, at the outset, has too often resulted in great injustice to the public, mortification to the postmaster, and downright ruin, to those who have been put in places of responsibility and temptation merely because they could be had "for a little or nothing." The law does not allow of the employment of any person in any branch of the mail service who is under the age of sixteen years, and yet this well known provision is too often disregarded for mercenary and other interests, too important, it would seem, to be overlooked.

The general loose management observed in some offices, has often been excused by a postmaster on the ground that his predecessor had inaugurated certain free and easy practices on the part of outsiders, a discontinuance of which would give great offence. In this class of offices it is not uncommon to see the "leading men" of the town or village coolly walking behind the letter cases, or thrusting their long arms through the general delivery, and helping themselves to letters supposed to be their lawful property. To suggest to these gentlemen the impropriety of such a course, would be to "distrust their honesty," forsooth! They do not stop to reflect that even admitting their own infallibility, the example might be followed by others perhaps less scrupulous as to what mail matters they selected. It is astonishing to witness these weaknesses, as we often do, on the part of men of intelligence and good breeding in other respects, and who, in their own business affairs, would indignantly repel any such free and easy actions, alike on the part of acquaintances and strangers.

Our advice to old as well as new postmasters is, to shroud the gate at once to these and all kindred "liberties"—treating all classes of your customers with courtesy and attention, and yet knowing no privileged classes among the outside public. You will thus save yourselves a world of trouble, and the loss of some self-respect, while at the same time you fulfill the obligations implied by the acceptance of the office, and comply with the orders and instructions of the Postmaster General, accompanying your appointment.

Money in the Mails.

There was some force in a remark once made by a prominent Congressman, while alluding to the comparative insecurity of the mails. Said he, "if I could have my way, I would make a law that there should never be a dollar of money sent in the mails, for there is no just reason why letters to my family should be intercepted and destroyed, because some one else takes it into his head to send by the same mail a five dollar note. If money remittances were by law kept out of the mail bags, they would seldom if ever be disturbed, and thus domestic and business correspondence, for which the post office was originally intended, would go safely."

It is doubtful whether the custom, which has become so thoroughly interwoven with our present postal system, of using the mails as a medium for making cash remittances, can ever be abandoned with the general consent of the public. If it is to be continued, our own experience satisfies us that the most effectual safeguard for the security of the mails, is to be found in the certain enforcement of the penalties provided by Congress for their protection.

These penalties, especially in regard to persons in the employ of the P. O. Department, are indeed severe, but not too much so when the enormity of the offence at which they are aimed, is taken into the account. In the whole catalogue of crimes, it is certain that none are more or more dastardly than that of letter robbing.

"Nothing."

"Is there anything for me to-day?" "Nothing." It is estimated that this question and answer are repeated at the different post offices in the United States at least two millions of times on each working day, or six hundred and twenty-six million times per year—an expenditure of breath fearful to contemplate.

In many post offices, where the number of letters arriving is not too large, an alphabetical list of the letters received by each mail (except those for box-holders) is posted up in some convenient place, and by this device the number of applications is materially lessened. This custom has its disadvantages, however, as it affords an opportunity for those who are so inclined, to gratify an idle curiosity respecting the recipients of letters through the post office, and, more and worse than this, it facilitates the operations of a class of knaves who, on seeing a letter upon the list, whose possession might be of some advantage to them, would not hesitate to accomplish their object by any means in their power.

Post offices in many places are made to serve a purpose not contemplated by the Department. Persons of both sexes, but more usually females, often find it convenient to make the post office a rendezvous for themselves and their friends. An inquiry for an imaginary letter furnishes a pretext for parading through the streets, or for keeping an appointment. This convenience, however, is obtained at the cost of much additional trouble to post office clerks, whose time is sufficiently occupied in attending to their ordinary duties, without being compelled to answer an indefinite number of frivolous questions. This evil is especially prevalent in manufacturing towns and villages. It is estimated, for example, that in the city of Lowell not less than one thousand applications are made each day, when the applicants have no reason to expect to find anything addressed to them, the same persons calling several times a day, and without the slightest reference to the arrival of the mails.

Should these remarks meet the eye of delinquents like those we have mentioned, we trust they will in future be more considerate, and think twice before putting such unnecessary burdens upon the already overtasked postmasters and post office clerks.

What are Valuable Letters?

When a wholesale robbery of the mails takes place, how often do we hear the question asked, "was there much money in the letters?" As if the real value of the mails were to be estimated according to the available cash enclosures they contain! We once had the satisfaction, while distributing a lot of stolen and mutilated letters, recovered from a rified mail bag, of visiting the sick chamber of a gentleman in Boston, and handing to him a letter from his wife, who was several hundred miles distant. He was a resident of a Western city, and had gone to Boston for medical advice, and to undergo a dangerous surgical operation. As we entered his lonely chamber he was walking the room, the picture of loneliness and dejection. The object of the call was at once explained, and the welcome letter from his absent companion placed in his hand. His countenance brightened up, as he hastily seized the long-wished for missive of love and affection from home, and glanced at the well known hand-writing, when he addressed us as follows: "Sir, this is the happiest moment of my life. You are indeed a welcome visitor. For six long weeks have I remained here among comparative strangers, with physical suffering and sleepless nights, almost beyond endurance, without one word of sympathy or information from my distressed family." He sank into his chair, and without a word of interruption from us, hastily ran his eyes over the contents of the letter.

"Thank God for this much," said he, "they are all alive and well, and I here find that my good wife has kept her promise to write me weekly, but this is the first line I have received from her. What can have become of the other letters?"

The investigation had already settled that point. The packages from Milwaukee to Boston, which had contained the missing letters, had all been intercepted and burned, according to the confession of the author of the robberies, a fact which was corroborated by the records in the Boston post office, showing the failure of nearly all the Milwaukee packages for several weeks.

Who will attempt to fix a pecuniary value upon the lost letters of which we have been speaking, or undertake to estimate the amount of sorrow and mental agony occasioned by the ruthless acts of the guilty author of all this mischief? And yet this was only a single instance of the disappointment and distress occasioned by those oft-repeated and reckless deprivations.

Jerry's Post Office.

Several gentlemen formerly holding important positions in our Post Office Department at Washington, are now connected with Jerry's Southern post establishment. A gentleman just from Montgomery, Ala., informs us that he paid a short visit to the Post Office Department there, and found Mr. Clements, recently Chief Clerk of our Department, and Mr. Offutt, recently Chief Clerk of the Auditor's office, busily engaged in arranging the machinery for the new concern.

Proposals for mail bags, mail locks, keys, blanks, &c., appear in the New Orleans and other Southern papers.

Our Flag.

The Post Office is doing its full share of duty in disseminating patriotic emotions and sentiments among the American people. A large proportion of the letters sent through the mails from this city the past fortnight, have borne upon their envelopes representations of our national emblem.

An accompaniment to one of the many of these appropriate designs is the noble and manly order sent by ex-postmaster Dix, while Secretary of the Treasury, to one of the officers of a revenue cutter then at the South, namely, "Whoever dares to haul down that flag, shoot him on the spot."

The Old Dutch Church.

The warlike atmosphere which surrounds us, and the military preparations going on in our city, remind us strongly of scenes which were once witnessed here, when a foreign power was waging war within our borders, and occupying the commercial metropolis of the country. The circumstances in which we are now placed invest with fresh interest the memorials of past conflict which remain. The progress of improvement has swept away many of the ancient edifices whose history was identified with that of the stirring times of the Revolution; but some of these edifices have survived the general demolition. Among them, the old Dutch Church, which has been occupied as the Post Office for seventeen years, deserves at least a brief mention on account of the various characters it has sustained from time to time, and the diverse scenes which its walls have witnessed. The experiences have been those of ecclesiastical, military, and civil life. It was built in 1726-7, and occupied as a house of worship from 1729 until the city was seized by the British troops during the Revolutionary war, when it was used for some time as a prison, and afterwards as a riding-school. The whole interior was destroyed, leaving nothing but the bare walls, and so it remained until 1788, when it was repaired, and re-opened for Divine service on the fourth of July, 1790. The last sermon was preached within its walls August 11, 1844, since which time it has been occupied for a post office.

The interior of the building now presents an appearance strikingly in contrast with the scenes displayed while it was in possession of the British troops. Hundreds of flags (our "Stars and Stripes") of various sizes, now decorate the walls, and look down upon the animated scene below, where scores of clerks are busily engaged in the peaceful occupation of preparing the mails for their departure, or receiving them as they come in. Certainly the emblems of our nationality can be displayed in no place more appropriate than this, abounding as it does in historic associations, and now having become one of the great centers of the world's correspondence—a power in peace or war.

A splendid Liberty-Pole, sixty-five feet long, and Banner, thirty by twenty, manufactured expressly for the purpose, under the direction of Thomas Clark, Esq., of the New York Post Office, were placed upon the roof of the old Church, at the south end of the building, on Thursday morning of last week. The occasion was one long to be remembered by all who witnessed and participated in the interesting ceremonies. At a given signal, the flag was hoisted, amid the booming of cannon and the deafening cheers of the multitude assembled in the immediate vicinity. General Dix, surrounded by nearly the whole force of the Post Office, made a brief yet highly appropriate and patriotic address, of which the following is the substance:

Fellow citizens: I regretted to see it announced in the morning papers that I was coming here to make a speech. I assure you I have no such intention. The time for speeches has passed (applause); the time for action has come! prompt, earnest, vigorous action. I came here at the request of my old associates, on an occasion alike honorable to their patriotism and their spirit; and I throw myself on your indulgence, while I carry out my purpose in the briefest manner.

When my connection with you (the speaker here turned towards his former associates in the post office) was dissolved some three months since, that beautiful flag had been repudiated by one of the States of the Union, and some time after, six more followed her example. If I may judge others by my own feeling, I can say that this indifference to the precious memories connected with one of the most glorious banners that ever floated over a free people, has only had the effect to endear it still more to our hearts. [Loud and prolonged applause.] I rejoice to see this banner floating over this venerable edifice, which was an eloquent witness of all the great events in the history of our city, from the Declaration of Independence to the time when the hostile tramp of the last departing soldier was heard in our streets.

I speak from personal knowledge when I say that the effect to endear it still more to our hearts, and may we not hope, gentlemen, that under the favor of Providence the blessings which for so many years were invoked within these once consecrated walls, upon our beloved country, will be reflected upon her time-honored banner, and nerve our hearts, while it shall float over this ancient house of prayer, to defend and uphold it as the living emblem of our national Union.

MANUFACTURE OF POSTAGE STAMP ENVELOPES.

The paper, as received, is routed off into layers of 250 sheets. The first process is cutting by a knife in the form of an envelope, which is forced by a press through 250 sheets of paper, making at each operation 250 envelopes.

These envelopes are next passed to the embossing presses, where they receive the impression of the die and the coloring. They are then prepared for self-sealing, which is the only part of the process performed by hand.

The folding, which completes the envelopes, is done by machinery, which also counts and delivers them in packages of 25 each. After this they pass through the hands of seven girls, who each count them, and examine whether they are perfect, the last of whom places the paper-bands on the packages of 25 each.

They are then handed to the Superintendent of this branch, and packed in straw boxes made to contain 500 envelopes precisely. If less than twenty packages are put into the box the deficiency would be evident—more than twenty packages they would not contain.

The boxes are then tied with tape, and covered with three envelopes of strong manilla paper, and pasted with strong gline or four paste, being then ready for delivery.

The stock on hand varies from one to two and a half millions. Duplicates of the machinery are kept in another part of the establishment, to prevent delay in furnishing the orders of the Department, should that in use be destroyed or injured.

Hon. John A. Kasson,

FIRST ASSISTANT POST MASTER GENERAL.—This gentleman was born at Burlington, Vt., Jan. 11, 1822—was educated at the Burlington University, and stood second in rank in the graduating class of 1842.

The following winter, owing to bad health, (caused doubtless by too close attention to study) he visited the South, and returned in improved health the next year, pursuing his law studies at Worcester, Mass., with the Hon. Emory Washburn, now Professor of the Law School connected with Harvard University. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar by Judge Washburn, and practiced several years at New Bedford, as partner of the Hon. Thos. D. Eliot, M. C. from Mass. While a resident of this place, he was nominated by the Democrats for the State Legislature, and was offered in 1848, by one wing of them, a nomination to Congress, which he declined. In 1849, Mr. Kasson removed to St. Louis, Mo., and decided on a vigorous prosecution of his profession there, and did so very successfully for several years.

It was during his residence at St. Louis that Kossuth came, and the reception committee of citizens selected Mr. Kasson to give him the formal address of welcome, which duty he performed with honor to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of all parties.

Mr. Kasson married at Washington in 1850, a lady who was a native of that city, a grand daughter of Judge Daves, formerly of the Mass. Superior Court, and daughter of the late Wm. G. Eliot, Esq., of Washington City.

In 1854, he was a delegate to the commercial convention at Memphis Tenn., and took an active and leading part in the debate for the Central Pacific Rail Road, as against the Tehuantepec route. It was at this time that on account of the health of himself and family, he was obliged to change the climate. After visiting Europe in 1855, he removed to the higher and healthful valley of the Des Moines, in the interior of Iowa, and established himself in his profession, at the capital of the State, prior to the first assembling of the Legislature there, since which time he has enjoyed a liberal practice, and has made numerous and warm friends throughout the State.

Mr. Kasson has twice served as Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee of Iowa. As chairman of a board of commissioners, under an act of the Legislature, he examined the various Executive Departments of the State Government with a view to improve their efficiency, and made a full and elaborate report thereon to the Legislature.

In 1860, Mr. Kasson was a delegate at large from Iowa to the Chicago Convention, represented his State upon the committee on resolutions, and was a member of the sub-committee of five on whom devolved the labor of forming the platform, and for his services there he was highly complimented by the public press of the country. In the political canvass following that convention, he made speeches in nearly all parts of the State, and was acknowledged to be one of the most effective and popular speakers in the canvass.

The Iowa Delegation in Congress (many senators and representatives concurring with them) unanimously presented Mr. Kasson to the President for the office of the First Assistant Post Master General, and his nomination by the President to the Senate, immediately followed the confirmation of the Cabinet appointments.

Since he has occupied his present position he has discharged the duties (many times of a very unpleasant nature) with such courtesy and promptness as to meet the approbation of all having business with the Appointment bureau of the P. O. Department.

Mr. Kasson is yet a young man, and his numerous friends predict for him a brilliant future.

Canada.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

The Hon. Sidney Smith, Postmaster General of Canada, has just laid before the Canadian Legislature his Report for the year 1860. From it, we glean many useful ideas of the way in which our cousins across the lakes manage their postal affairs. We learn that not only is the Department self-sustaining, but that there has been an excess of receipts over the expenditure of nearly three thousand dollars. Such a result must be highly gratifying to the Canadian people. The working of the Department is carried on with the most rigid economy.

We quote a few of the most interesting items: Number of post offices in operation Sep. 30th, 1860, 16,998.

The net revenue of the year has been \$658,451.

The amount received from the United States post office for the sea conveyance of mails during the year 1860 has been

For quarter ending 31st March, 1860.	\$28,223
do 30th June.	20,232
do 30th Sept.	26,230
do 31st Dec.	29,905
Total.	\$104,641

The correspondence passing by the Canadian packets both of Canada and the United States is slowly but steadily increasing.

No. of letters passing during 1860 between the United States and Europe by Canadian packets were as follows:

To and from United Kingdom.	500,000
" " France and Belgium.	70,000
" " Prussia.	50,000
Total.	620,000

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Postage on the correspondence between Canada and the United States during the year was

Collected in the United States.	\$86,852
Do. in Canada.	91,249
Total.	\$178,132

The epistolary intercourse with the United States has more than doubled within the last ten years.

We cannot refrain from complimenting our Canadian friends on the very satisfactory and able report of their Postmaster General.

We would again solicit contributions to our columns from postmasters and others.

BUSINESS AT THE POST OFFICE.

It is a remarkable fact, that the correspondence of New York has been but very slightly lessened since the commencement of our national troubles, as indicated by the receipts for postage stamps sold at the post office.

The falling off in the sales during the month of April has been less than fifty dollars per day.

Hon. Solomon Foots,

now President pro tem of the U. S. Senate, was for a time a Special Agent of the P. O. Department. His great frankness of character, and the entire absence of anything like secrecy in his composition, quite disqualified him for a successful discharge of his peculiar duties. And no one knew this or more readily acknowledged it, than Mr. Foots himself. He made a poor Special Agent, but is a dignified, noble specimen of a U. S. Senator, and is really fit for President. If by implication, the facts here stated raise the office of "Special Agent" a peg or two, it is no fault of ours!

New Postal Instructions.

The Post Master General has directed the publication in pamphlet form of the Postal Laws recently passed by Congress, together with his instructions as to the execution of those laws, by postmasters and others. We regret that we did not receive a copy in time to be published in full in our present number.

We give the following synopsis, and will insert it entire in our next:

RATES OF POSTAGE.

Charge on letters conveyed by private ships or vessels, five cents, (instead of six, as heretofore), if delivered at the post office where the same shall arrive. If forwarded by mail, two cents in addition to the domestic rates to which it would be subject if originating at such offices.

Regular dealers in newspapers and periodicals to pay postage by the package on newspapers and periodicals at the same rate as if paid quarterly or yearly in advance.

Maps, engravings, lithographs, or photographic prints, on rollers or in paper-covers, books, bound or unbound, photographic paper, and letter envelopes, in packages not exceeding in any case four pounds, one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce in any place in the United States under fifteen hundred miles, and at the rate of two cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce over fifteen hundred miles, prepaid by postage stamps.

Same rates on cards, either blank or printed, and blanks in packages weighing at least eight ounces, and seeds or cuttings in packages not exceeding eight ounces.

Ten cents chargeable on each single letter from points in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains to any State or Territory on the Pacific, and from the Pacific to points east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States.

All drop letters must be prepaid by postage stamps.

No allowance in future to postmasters for delivering free letters or newspapers.

All dead letters for California, Oregon, and Washington to be returned to Washington city, under the general regulations heretofore in force.

No private post, horse or foot, to be established on any streets, lanes or alleys declared by the Postmaster General to be post-roads in any city or town.

POST EXPRESS.

In connection with a daily overland mail (from and after the 1st of July next) between St. Joseph, Missouri, and San Francisco, California, there will be a semi-weekly pony express mail, which will convey letters prepaid at the ten-cent rate of postage, provided they are also properly marked, so as to show the payment of the extra charge of one dollar per half ounce allowed by law to the contractor.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND ENVELOPES.

Letter-sheets embossed with postage stamps are authorized to be issued, combining in one both a sheet and envelope; also stamped wrappers for newspapers.

The use of a stamp cut from a stamped envelope is fine with fifty dollars, as well as the reuse of an ordinary postage stamp.

DEAD LETTERS.

Letters which have been advertised and remained unclaimed two months are to be returned to the dead-letter office, excepting letters at sea-ports intended for persons on board certain designated vessels expected to arrive, and letters specially marked to be held a longer period.

Postmasters are specially directed to advertise letters according to the standing Regulations of the Department, under section 181, chapter 13, and to return unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of each advertisement.

These offices of the smallest class will return every six weeks; those of the second class, once a month; those of the third class, twice a month; those of the fourth class, every week.

Letters of the following descriptions are excepted from these instructions, and must be separately returned to the dead-letter office from all offices at least as often as once a week, viz.:

Letters held for postage, including drop letters. Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes.

Unpaid letters for foreign countries on which no payment is required by the regulations.

Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.

Letters misdirected, or directed to places where there are no post offices.

Refused letters and such as cannot be delivered, (as when the parties addressed are known to be deceased or moved away.)

Sections 185, 186, 187, 189, 309, and 312 of the Standing Regulations are not hereafter to be regarded.

Section 134 is modified so as to limit the one-cent rate chargeable per ounce on books to distances under fifteen hundred miles, instead of three thousand.

Writers of letters can have them returned, if uncollected within any given period, by endorsing such request with their address on the letters.

Postage is chargeable on all letters returned from the dead-letter office.

The Grand Jury have indicted John Corcoran for robbing the New York Post Office, where he was employed until his recent arrest.

THE PORTRAITS.

A few orders have been received for the gallery of steel Portraits of all the Post Masters General, twenty in all, which we propose to supply for fifty cents per copy. Sixteen of these likenesses have already been engraved, but the execution of the remaining three, including the present head of the Department, will take some time. As soon as completed the orders will be filled.

TRUE CHARITY.

A gentleman, whose name we do not remember, was formerly in the habit of calling at the Philadelphia post office, and paying the postage on foreign letters deposited there for the packets by those who were not aware of the post office laws, such depositors being mostly poor persons.

(Advertisement.)

Hon. HORATIO KIRK will attend to business before the Post Office and the other Executive Departments, at Washington, D. C.

POST OFFICE RATING STAMPS

E. S. ZEVELY, Cumberland, Maryland, delivers a good office Stamp, with date changes, for ONE DOLLAR. Also other stamps, his stamps have been thoroughly tested for a number of years, and much approval.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1861.

No. 9.

Harrowfork Post Office.

There is no blessing bestowed upon us by a kind Providence, which man's selfishness may not pervert into a grievance. We have seen this principle illustrated in the use and abuse of post offices, as often as in any other civil institution.

How society in the nineteenth century could exist without a post office and the regular delivery of letters, it is impossible to conceive. Imagine a town without a post office! a community without letters! friends, relatives, countrymen, and lovers, particularly the lovers, cut off from correspondence, bereft of newspapers, buried alive from the light of intelligence, and the busy stir of the great world! What an appalling picture!

We have always thought that Robinson Crusoe and his man Friday might have enjoyed a very comfortable existence, had Juan Fernandez been blessed with a post office. But think of a society of Crusoes and Fridays! nobody receiving letters, nobody writing letters—no watching the mails, no epistolary surprises and enjoyments, which form so large an element in our social life to-day!

But gloomy as the picture appears, we have many times thought that some very respectable and enlightened villages would be decidedly benefited, were the post office stricken from the catalogue of their institutions. This is a house of contention, which often sets the whole neighborhood by the ears, and communities, which might otherwise enjoy the reputation of being regular circles of "brotherly love," break out into quarrels, contentions, slanders, libellations, and all sorts of un-Christian disturbances.

The case of the town of Harrowfork, which we find recorded in our note book, will most capably illustrate the point under consideration. Harrowfork, by the way, is not the real name of the town, but a fictitious one, which we use for our convenience, as the real name has been located on the eastern slope of an eminence which overlooks one of the fairest of valleys on one of the most beautiful New England streams. The town was once a favorite place of resort with the writer, during the summer season; and although this was years ago, the pretty village is still fresh in his memory, with its green hills, its handsome residences scattered in the foliage of trees and vines—its rival churches, with their emulous spires pointing toward heaven; its stately mansions, and magnificent prospects, looking far off upon the wide-spread valley, dotted with farm-houses, and beautified by the sinuous, glittering waters of the stream.

Its sunrise were particularly fine, and it has always seemed to us that the post must have had them in his mind, when he penned the sonnet commencing

"Full many a glorious morning I have seen
Flatter the mountain tops with sovereign eye,
Kissing with golden face the meadows green,
Gilding pale streams with heavenly alchemy."

It appears to us a strange dispensation of Providence, that such a perfect nest of loveliness should be invaded by inharmonious cat birds, and mischief-making wrens. But discussions did creep in through the post office. Up to a certain time, universal peace prevailed among the inhabitants, that its two lawyers would have been beggared, had they not wisely resorted to farming, as a more reliable occupation than the occasional and precarious one of conducting some tame and straight-forward case, for a petty fee. But now the lawyers have enough to do without turning aside from their regular profession to litigation in brick and mortar in Harrowfork, and intricate and aggravated cases are numerous. Neighbors quarrel, church members sue each other, deacons go to law, the lawyers build fine houses, their families grow extravagant in dress—all owing to the post office.

As long as old Uncle Crocker was postmaster, there was no difficulty. He seemed just the man for the business. He was looked upon as a part of the institution. Nobody thought of turning him out, more than they would have thought of petitioning for the removal of Harrowfork Hill.

But Uncle Crocker was not a permanent institution, notwithstanding the people's faith. One of his daughters married, and settled in the country, two of his sons followed her, and in the course of time, Uncle Crocker himself "pulled up stakes," retired from the post office with honors, and migrated to the new territory. As soon as the old gentleman's intention was made public, there was a slight flutter of interest in the community, in relation to the subject of a successor in his office. At first, it was offered like Snagby's expression of opinion in the presence of his wife—only as a "mild suggestion." But there was a good deal of partisan feeling latent in Harrowfork, and this was just the thing to develop it; and gently as the breeze had arisen, it freshened and increased, until it blew a perfect hurricane, that not only disturbed the whole county, but became troublesome even as far off as Washington.

At an early period of the excitement, the friends of an enterprising tradesman in the place had gone quietly to work, and procured his appointment to the office. It was quite a surprise to many of his fellow-townsmen, and no small sensation was produced when Deacon Upton was announced as the new postmaster. Many were dissatisfied of course; and although the deacon had always been known as a quiet, inoffensive man, he suddenly became the subject of derogatory remarks. The personal friends who had been instrumental in securing the appointment, formed a spirited minority in his favor, while all who had not been consulted in the premises naturally felt bound to range themselves on the side of his critics and opponents.

To make matters worse, a Presidential campaign followed Mr. Upton's inauguration, and politics "ran high." The post office became the great centre and source of excitement. People met, on the arrival of the mails, and glanced over the editorial columns of their newspapers, and talked over their grievances. At length the deacon had a change of Administration effected. And as the health or sickness of the nation appeared now to depend entirely upon the post office incumbent at Har-

rowfork, this subject received prompt attention from all parties.

All sorts of communications, full of absurd complaints, contradictory statements, impetuous commands, and angry denunciations, were now poured in upon the Post Office Department at Washington. To show what human nature is at such times, and also to designate how perfectly clear and beautifully pleasant the duty of the appointing power becomes, in the progress of the snarl, we will give a few specimens of these conflicting missives.

Here is one version of the story:

"TO HIS HONOR THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AT WASHINGTON:

"SIR,—Your Honor's humble petitioners, legal voters in the town of Harrowfork, respectfully submit the following undeniable facts for your consideration:

"First, The person who now holds the office of postmaster in our place is totally unfit for the business. He was got in by a clique of interested individuals who used underhand measures for the purpose, and succeeded in their object by blinding the eyes of the Department to the real character of the man, and the wishes of the people. Not one man in fifty is in favor of the present incumbent; and those who are, are out of the way by persons who sell out for or receive letters, and have little or no business in connection with the post office.

"Second, The office is left during a great portion of the time in the charge of the postmaster's father-in-law, a worthy old gentleman, but whose sight is somewhat failing; so that when persons call for letters or papers, he has first to hunt up his spectacles, which he has been known to wear five minutes in doing; then he has to go over with the letters, &c., very slowly, to avoid making mistakes, very often taking them out of the wrong box; and, after all, giving the wrong letters to people, or giving them none at all, when the fact is, letters for them have perhaps been lying untouched in the office for weeks, such as are the following:

"Third, Valuable letters have been lost through carelessness on the part of persons in the office, or from less excusable causes, of which we leave your Honor to judge. Letters containing money are particularly liable to misentry.

"Fourth, It is a fact which merits your Honor's special consideration, that in consequence of the dissolute habits of the postmaster's nephew, who attends in the office evenings, a very respectable gang of young men are encouraged to hang about the doors till late at night, making it very unpleasant for the more sober citizens to go there for their mails.

"Fifth, The present postmaster is a denizen of the church, and very sectarian in his views. There may be no direct connection between this circumstance and the fact that the religious newspapers of different sects from his own are apt to be lost or destroyed in the mails, while the *Herald of Truth*, a paper for which he is commissioned to obtain subscribers, is always punctually delivered! Your Honor's petitioners state this only as a remarkable coincidence, which may, however, have some bearing upon the case.

"In view of these stubborn and undeniable facts, we the undersigned, legal voters in the town of Harrowfork, humbly petition your honor that the present postmaster be removed, and a more suitable person be appointed in his place.

"We also beg leave to suggest to your honor's consideration the name of Josiah Barnaby, as a fit and reliable candidate for the office, and a person who would be sure to give more general satisfaction to the community than any other available man.

"Trusting that the foregoing statements will receive your honor's early attention, and such official action as the merits of the case may require, we remain, your honor's most respectful petitioners,

"Signed by
"AMINADAB FOGLE, and thirteen others."

This was certainly a strong case, and it would seem perhaps clear that "his honor" should straightway remove Upton, and appoint Barnaby to fill his place.

But close upon the heels of the above petition followed another of a very different character. The framers of the last also maintained that a change should be made, and addressed strong charges against Upton; but it appeared after all, that Barnaby was not the most reliable man.

"Such an appointment," said the new document, "would give greater dissatisfaction, if possible, than the one already done. The said Barnaby is an infidel, who makes himself very obnoxious to all right-minded citizens by his avowed disbelief in the Scriptures, and his contempt of the Sabbath, and the ordinances of religion. Your honor's humble petitioners, therefore, submit that it would be an outrage upon the feelings of a Christian community to have such a person appointed to so important and responsible an office.

"Furthermore, the undersigned take it upon themselves to affirm that it is not the wish of our four persons, to remove the said Barnaby should receive the commission. We understand the petition in his favor was drawn up by one Aminadab Fogle, whose name heads the list. Now it happens that the said Fogle is a member of the said Barnaby's family, and is likewise connected with the family, and persons, like him, entirely destitute of religious principles. With regard to other persons who signed the petition, we do not know their names, but we are confident that they did so because they were urged, and could not refuse without offending their neighbors.

"Under these circumstances, the undersigned respectfully represent that they express the general feeling of the community when they nominate Mr. James S. Clark as an eligible candidate for the office in question."

Then follows an eulogy on Mr. Homer S. Clark; the whole winding up with a grand "historical flourish, to the tail of which are attached some twenty-three names, representing the active "better class" of society in Harrowfork.

So it appeared that Clark was the right man; and undoubtedly the Department would have proceeded at once to invest him with the disputed honors; but before any action could be taken in the matter, a circular representation from another party, strengthened by affidavits, served to cast "damning conjectures" on the whole affair. This was a petition from the Upton party, wherein it was maintained, that of the two aspirants for office, Barnaby was the better man. Clark having made himself very unpopular by failing for a large amount of money before, going through chancery, and afterwards living in a style of elegance unbecoming a man who had dismissed his creditors with ten cents on a dollar.

It was also shown that the prime mover in favor of Clark was a cousin of his, and the same person who was supposed to have held a large portion of bankrupt property in trust for the said Clark at the time of his failure! Still Barnaby was in favor of Clark had represented. There were fifty in Harrowfork eminently qualified to fulfill the duties of postmaster, and who would give infinitely better satisfaction than

either of the new candidates; but of them all there was no one who, in the opinion of the petitioners, was better calculated for the office than the present incumbent. It was only a few dissatisfied, mischief-making people, who proposed to consider a change at all desirable. Upton had now been in the year; had shown himself obliging and faithful; and although a few minor mistakes, unavoidable under the circumstances, had escaped his eye in the early part of his career, he was now experienced, and in such errors would be likely to occur in future.

The attention of the Department was then called to the fact that the names of John Harmon, Solomon Corwin, Amos Fink, and several others, probably would be found on both the Clark and Barnaby petitions! This inconsistency was easily accounted for. In the first place, John Harmon had always been accustomed, when Crocker was postmaster, to make himself quite at home in the office. Mr. Upton, however, exercising a strict impartiality, had from the first excluded every outsider from the private room, Harmon not excepted, during the business of opening and assorting the mails. Thereupon Harmon had taken offence, and was ready to sign any petition against Upton, without regard to the source whence it originated. With respect to Corwin and Fink and any others whose names might be found on both the petitions, they were not in the office, but had from the first excluded every outsider from the private room, Harmon not excepted, during the business of opening and assorting the mails. Thereupon Harmon had taken offence, and was ready to sign any petition against Upton, without regard to the source whence it originated.

It was therefore the humble prayer of the petitioners, that no needless change should be made, but that the present postmaster should be continued in office, at least until some good reason should be assigned for his removal.

Then followed a good show of names designed to impress the Department with the power and influence of the Upton party.

This put a different face upon the matter, and simple justice seemed to require that the actual facts should be stated unadorned in the enjoyment of the honors and emoluments of his office.

But there came another statement from a fourth party, containing grave and serious charges not only against Barnaby and Clark, but also against Upton, and recommending the removal of the latter, and the appointment of a new candidate, Mr. Esdral Sloman to the vacancy. It was made to appear that Mr. Sloman was the man of all others, to please the community at large; and for a time his prospects were very good; but some of Upton's friends getting wind of the matter, it was satisfactorily represented to the department, that although an honest, well-meaning man, the said Sloman was entirely destitute of energy and business tact; that, indeed, he had so little worldly capacity that he was literally supported by the charity of friends; and that in order to relieve themselves of the encumbrance, these friends had united to have him appointed postmaster.

This Sloman was cast overboard. The Upton party exulted. Their opponents were exasperated, and the occasion was formed between the Barnaby and Clark factions.

Aminadab Fogle and John Harmon put their heads together. Both Clark and Barnaby were dropped, and all hands agreed to support a new man named Wheeler. But the main thing was to remove Upton. The following strong point was accordingly made against that individual, in addition to the previous charges:

"Although entirely uninterested in the matter, except so far as the common rights of humanity are concerned, the undersigned consider it their conscientious duty to inform your honor that the said Upton is decidedly opposed to the present national administration, and has long been at heart an abolitionist of the deepest dye, and of late his fanaticism has shown itself in public. During the recent Presidential campaign, the post office was made the headquarters of universal abuse of every kind, and during the time, converted into a regular caucus room by the leaders of that party, that your honor may judge for yourself what this man's political conduct has been, the undersigned take the liberty of calling your attention to the enclosed editorial notice of a Free Soil meeting in which Deacon Upton took an active part. It is clipped from the columns of the 'Temperance Gazette,' a paper neutral in politics and religion, and entirely independent and impartial on the post office question.

The following is the newspaper paragraph referred to:

"Next, we were a little surprised to see our respected friend postmaster Upton take the floor, and treat the audience to a harangue, which as a specimen of eloquence will, we venture to assert, find nothing to compare with it in the orations of Cicero. But it was the matter, more than the manner of the speech, which excited our astonishment. We had always given our friend credit for being a law and order man; notwithstanding his well known abolition prejudices," (words in italics underscored with ink by the petitioners), and the occasion of the public demonstration of the most ultra Garrisonianism. How a man, uniformly discreet, should have suffered his feelings to run away with his judgment in a political discourse, we cannot conceive, unless it be that in the whirlwind of eloquence that bore him away, all consideration of his patriotism, and duty, were lost sight of. After all, it is not Upton who is to blame, it is the times. He should have lived in Athens, in the palmy days of Grecian oratory. What would Demosthenes have been by the side of the great Upton! Echo answers 'What?'

This proved the decisive blow. Upton was cut off like Hamlet, senior,

"Even in the bosoms of his sin."
Scarce was his removal effected, however, when the eyes of Harrowfork were suddenly opened to the fact that he was "about the best man for postmaster, that could be had, after all!"

The slanders that had been circulated to his disadvantage, were turned in his favor. Among other instances of dishonest dealing, in the opposition party, the great fraud touching Upton's Abolitionism, was now discovered and exposed. He was proved to be entirely innocent of any such "political honey;" and it was further shown that the slip of editorial clipping from "The Temperance Gazette," had never appeared in the columns of that paper; that it had been prepared expressly, and privately printed for the dishonest purpose it had served!

But the correction of the false and malicious statements came too late to benefit Upton in his official capacity. He had "gone out with the tide," and the returning waves were insufficient to bring him in again. He was politically adrift, and a new postmaster reigned in his stead. [To be continued.]

Patriotic Demonstration.

The Post Office Department at Washington was the scene of a most interesting and patriotic demonstration, on the 22d ult., on the occasion of the raising over that noble public structure a magnificent specimen of our dear old National Flag. At the appointed moment, the banner was elevated by President LINCOLN, in person.

This demonstration, although appropriate and beautiful, was hardly necessary as establishing the entire loyalty of the officers and privates of the Post Office Department, for since the commencement of our national troubles, better specimens of true patriots have not been found in the land. Each has carried aloft his own patriotic banner—the heart being the flag, and the fearless and erect form itself, constituting the flag staff!

We give the following condensed report of the ceremony, from a Washington correspondent:—
After a patriotic air from the band, General Skinner, Acting First Assistant Postmaster General, at a few minutes to twelve o'clock, addressed President Lincoln as follows:—

SPEECH OF GENERAL SKINNER.
MR. PRESIDENT—The officers and clerks of the Post Office Department, with a view to publicly manifest their devotion to the country and the constitution and to the preservation of the Union, have determined to raise over the building in which they are employed the flag of the United States—the glorious Stars and Stripes under which our fathers fought, under which they obtained the freedom of this country, and under which we hope its continuance will be perpetuated to all time. On this occasion, sir, we deem it to be the highest privilege that could be conferred upon us, if you would honor us by raising the flag to the masthead from which it is hoisted.

At this time, sir, permit me to express for a moment to you, in behalf of the clerks in the Post Office Department, that they are a devoted and determined set of Union men and are proud in having, at this time and in this presence, an opportunity of testifying to you, sir, as the Chief Magistrate of the nation, their devotion to the American Union, and their determination to assist in maintaining it to the end.

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT.
The President, having advanced to the front of the platform, was enthusiastically greeted from the crowd. He said:—

Sir—Permit me to say, in response to your invitation, that I am very happy, upon this, as upon all occasions, to be an humble instrument in forwarding the very worthy object which you have expressed. I therefore shall take pleasure in performing the part assigned me upon this occasion, and I hope in an satisfactory manner. I suppose that extended remarks are not expected of me at this time, but that it is desired by all that we shall proceed at once to the work in hand, of raising our glorious national ensign to the proud and lofty eminence from which it is designed to have its wave. I am now ready to perform my part.

The ropes attached to the staff, and on which the flag was fastened, were then placed in the hands of the President, when, amid the most deafening applause from the crowd below, the flag was raised to its prominent position. There being but a slight breeze at the time of its reaching its place at the top of the staff, it remained for a moment or two motionless, when suddenly, a gentle wind rising from the north, its ample folds were extended to the breeze in a most graceful and beautiful manner, eliciting one universal burst of applause from the assembled multitude, which was kept up for some time, as the flag continued waving its folds, extending in the direction of the South, as if offering to ensure protection to the advocates and upholders of the government and principles of which it was emblematical, in that section of the country. This happy incident had the effect of eliciting the following appropriate remarks from the President:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—I had not thought to say a word, but it has occurred to me that a few weeks ago the "Stars and Stripes" hung rather languidly about the staff all over the nation. So, too, with this flag when it was elevated to its place. At first it hung rather languidly, but the glorious breeze came, and it now floats as it should. (Cries of "good," and applause.) And we hope that the same breeze, swelling the glorious flag throughout the nation.

SPEECH OF POSTMASTER GENERAL BLAIR.
After the applause following these remarks had subsided, repeated calls were made for the Hon. Montgomery Blair, the Postmaster General, in response to which that gentleman came forward, and spoke as follows:—

FELLOW CITIZENS—On behalf of the officers of the Post Office Department, I thank you for your presence here on this occasion, to cheer them in their efforts to reawaken the heart of this nation to that proud old banner which you all hailed with so much enthusiasm on this occasion. As the President has said, it seemed for a moment as if the affections of the people were gone from that flag in one portion of this country. But, my friends, that is a great error. The old flag is yet dear to the nation in all parts of the country, and the people are coming forth everywhere to uphold and maintain it. (Loud applause.) It is not because of the beauty of its colors; it is not because it has the stars and stripes upon it. It is because it has associated with it all that is dear to American freemen—the emblem of that freedom, the emblem of that glory, the emblem of that popular government, which is sunk so deep in the hearts of this nation. (Cries of "Good," and applause.) It is for that, and that only, that the people of this country are rising, not as party, for we have ceased to be parties. (Cries of "Bravo," and enthusiastic applause.) We are no longer democrats, we are no longer whigs, we are no longer republicans—we are Americans—[vociferous cheering]—standing up for free institutions. (Renewed applause.) And we intend to exhibit to the world that in the presence of the great principle of maintaining free institutions, we are one people, devoted to the end, be that end far or near. (Cries of "Good," and applause.) Do not mistake my own people of the

South. I am a Southern man, and the people, speaking through my voice, beg you to come and preserve them from a military despotism—[Cries of "We will do it," and applause]—a despotism installed by conspirators against freedom. (Cries of "We'll hang every one of them!" and loud applause.) Yes my friends, do not be deceived in supposing that my people have lost that sentiment for which their fathers and our fathers struggled in the infancy of this government. They are true and loyal to it; but the conspirators have secured a little power, and bayonets are ready to be pierced into the bosoms of all those who would rise and honor, as you do, that glorious flag. They beckon you to come and disarm these conspirators, and they will re-echo the voices that you have uttered here to-day at beholding the unfolding of those Stars and Stripes. [Applause.] Again thanking you, my friends, for your presence here on this occasion to aid us in doing honor to this glorious ensign, I will take my leave of you.

War Envelopes.
Patriotism evinces itself, during our national troubles, not only in songs but in emblems and badges that are displayed in a variety of ways. Flags float in the breeze, and the red, white and blue is worn by all classes of society. The post office too, is made the means of the dissemination of sentiment, and envelopes with patriotic motto or device, are much used in correspondence. A collection of such envelopes has been made at the New York Post Office, by the Secretary, Capt. Morgan, and it is really a curiosity. They are of every degree of workmanship as far as engraving is concerned—from the finest steel to the coarsest wood—plain and colored, gay and grave, some all love and fervor, and others threatening war and devastation.

Our flag, the glorious old flag, with every star in its place, is often used on these envelopes, with mottoes of various import, viz: "Our first love," "Our Flag," "Long shall she Wave," "The Union," "God save the Union," "Death to Traitors," and some with a verse from the Star Spangled Banner, or from Drake's poem. Gen'l Dix's order—"If any man attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot," is repeated in a variety of ways and with all sorts of devices. Among the comic envelopes is a picture of the "Two dogs,"—not by Buras. Also a "See-session" of dorkies, who come to the conclusion that "Twill cost all massa's money and more too." Jonathan making rope for traitors—and the "Innocent cause of the war," a sleek looking darkey.

The "Pleasant style" envelope, takes one back to Revolutionary days. The old hero is represented as leaving the plow and seizing his musket, ready to do battle for his country. The motto is—
"Around this banner we will stand,
And soon will let the traitor see
There is no North—there is no South—
But a United Nation—free.

Some of the regiments have their own envelopes. That got up by the Rhode Island regiment is a good one, displaying the coat of arms of the State. That of the Irish Brigade in honor of the 69th Col. Corcoran, a fine steel engraving by Kimmel of 59 Nassau street, is a beautiful affair. We quote the lines—
"In view of the guilt and the treason,
The Goddess of Liberty sighs,
Let us up and defend her in season,
And bring back the joy of her eyes.
Bear the Stars and the Stripes o'er you proudly,
Nor let your march be delayed,
Till the foe flies in terror before you,
When charged by the IRISH BRIGADE."

THE LAST GRAB.—A postmaster located in one of the disaffected States, orders of one of the U. S. Agencies for furnishing post office wrapping paper, blauks, &c.; twelve balls twine and ten reams paper! It is a small office, using perhaps one ball of twine in the course of a year.

Compliance with the order was of course declined.

Letter Addresses.
Begone thou little Messenger,
Far over hill and plain,
To the little Town of Hudson
Down in the State of Maine.
Let Mrs. Susan Wilder
Be the first to break thy seal,
To her thy little Message
In confidence reveal.
Don't charge but one postage upon this letter,
Although its going to Dublin.
If you do, John Fry will be your debtor,
And its him you will be troublin.

To James R. Porter
Who is no small beer,
And lives in New Bedford,
I send this 'ere.

In Troy
There lives a boy
Whose name is Andrew McCoy.
This letter deliver
To him, near the river,
If you don't, you won't be worth a stiver.

Upon this letter waves our flag—
Why can't the letter then be free?
I see—it's now as clear as mud,
That glorious flag's prepaid in blood!

Quick, fly away, to J. B. Gray,
Who lives in Boston city,
If he's not there in Market Square,
Why then the more's the pity.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, JUNE, 1861.

TERMS.—One dollar per year payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

Southern Mails.

By order of the Post Master General, under authority of the act of Congress of Feb. 25th, 1861, all mail service in the States which claim to have seceded from the Union, was discontinued on the 31st day of May ult., "until such time as it may safely be restored." Letters directed to offices in those States, cannot therefore be forwarded, but are to be treated as dead letters, and sent to Washington.

Mails for the following counties in Western Virginia, are ordered sent to Wheeling, Virginia, for distribution, viz. Harrisonburg and Pittsburg Pennsylvania, namely:

Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Monongahela, Preston, Berkeley, Randolph, Upshur, Barbour, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Lewis, Braxton, Gilman, Wirt, Wood, Jackson, Mason, Putnam, Kanawha, Webster, Clay, Boone, Calhoun, Cabell, Wayne, Marion.

All these counties gave Union majorities at the late election.

Double Distilled Rascality.

Various benevolent institutions in this and other cities, have for a long time suffered considerable pecuniary loss by the stealing of money letters sent them from all parts of the country. Considering that the resources of these institutions are derived almost entirely from the contributions of those who sympathize with the poor and sick, and the neglected outcasts of society, one would think that even a slight feeling of compassion would withhold the hand of any one in human form from violating the sanctity of such charitable offerings. A highwayman would blush to rob a helpless child, and many notorious cutpurses have scorned to take from the poor his little all; indeed, they have been known not unfrequently to relieve the wants of the destitute, and thus have shown that every spark of humanity was not dead within them.

But these thieves who intercept the supplies designed for the support and comfort of widows and orphans—who steal with sacrilegious hands the offerings placed upon the altar of charity, are as far beneath ordinary rascals as ordinary rascals are beneath honest men. In Coleridge's poem, "The Devil's Thoughts," wherein this personage is represented as having gone a walking

"To visit his snug little farm the earth,
And see how his stock goes on."

no mention is made of that portion of his stock which were endeavoring to characterize, for the reason, probably, that not even the poet's imagination could conceive of such a profundity of meanness as that which these beings have reached.

Let them make the case their own: let them fancy their own wives and children left destitute and dependent, and deprived of the supplies intended to relieve their wants, by the villainy of persons who act just as they themselves are doing. To them Justice will be meted out in all its strictness, since their offense is without the palliations that are sometimes found for the house breaker, and even the murderer.

Slopping the Mails.

Through misapprehension, we presume, of the limits of their powers, the Police in this and other cities are in the habit, when the streets are occupied by processions or other displays, of stopping the vehicles in which the mails are being transported to or from the cars and steamboats, or else ordering them to take some roundabout way to their destination. This is all wrong, and contrary to the laws of the United States, which in such matters take precedence of State authority, and which forbid interruptions of whatever kind, to mails in their transit.

We have no doubt that this interference on the part of the police arises from ignorance of the law, and we would suggest the expediency of issuing instructions on this point to the police, in order that uninterrupted passage through the city may be secured for the mail wagons at all times.

The interests of the public requiring the closing of the mails at the latest possible moment, the time allowed for them to reach the various points of final departure, is necessarily short, so that even a trifling detention might lose the connection, and result in serious consequences to thousands of persons in the community.

The law of Congress on this subject is as follows:

"And be it further enacted, That if any person shall knowingly and wilfully obstruct or retard the passage of the mail, or of any driver or carrier, or of any horse or carriage, conveying the same; he shall, upon conviction for every such offense, pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars; and if any ferryman shall, by willful negligence, or refusal to transport the mail across any ferry, delay the same, he shall forfeit and pay for every ten minutes that the same shall be so delayed, a sum not exceeding ten dollars."

POP COAX.—Some of the Southerners the other day, sent an ear of fresh-grown corn to Gen. Scott, through the mail.

We are glad to see not only their big Cobbs, but so many of their Colonels (kernels) directly from the field, thus quietly surrendering into the hands of the old Hero. He will probably be in possession of more of their long ears before the war is over.

Special Agents.

"Human nature and soft sward," according to that eminent authority, Sam Slick, are the great moving powers of life—the foundation elements of success. And whatever may be true of other occupations, that of a Special Agent in the postal service, requires a thorough knowledge of the first at least of Slick's indispensables, and a judicious use of the others never comes amiss. He who enters upon the duties of this office with the belief that all men are what they seem, that a smooth face never covers a lying tongue, or that innocence and guilt may not exchange places in their outward aspects; nay, if he does not know that a person with the most honest intentions may be so warped unconsciously by his prejudices as to diverge widely from the truth in his statements regarding others, he will continually be foiled in his efforts to detect knavery. All these, and many other sources of error must be eliminated by the Special Agent, before he can work out the complicated problems which he is every day required to solve.

The Agent, for instance, is desirous of obtaining information regarding the character of some person upon whom suspicion has fallen, and of course he resorts to those who are acquainted with the person in question, and know something of his habits of life. Now in order to weigh accurately the testimony of these witnesses in the case supposed, it is often necessary, particularly in country towns, to ascertain the relations, social, ecclesiastical, or political, in which they stand to the suspected individual. For if he is a B's wife's eighteenth cousin, A's testimony regarding him may be good for nothing. If he attends "our meetings," we shall be predisposed to think him an honest fellow, but if he is connected with some other denomination, we find it easy to believe that he will never come to good, and we "hint a fault and hesitate dislike."

And so of political ties. Before the advancing tide of patriotism had hurried party landmarks beneath its waves, "our side," generally speaking, were angels, and the other was mostly composed of devils; therefore, in a community where political animosity ran high, this disturbing element entered largely into people's views of one another.

Amid the conflicting views which are thus received from different persons, it is often a matter of no small difficulty to determine where the truth lies, and frequently it is only a sort of acquired instinct that will enable one, in such circumstances, to steer his course successfully among so many shoals and rocks.

But besides the anxieties and perplexities attending the occupation of the Special Agent, there are many painful experiences which fall to his lot. He is compelled to witness distress which he would gladly relieve were he to consult his feelings rather than his duty. How often does he behold the tears of anguish wrung from a mother's heart by the ruin of her son, who has listened to the voice of the tempter, and lighted the hopes of his fond parent, who finds it hard indeed to believe that the son of her love and prayers has been guilty of acts which merit a felon's punishment. How often too, must he stand by in silent sympathy, while the loving wife parts in despair from her miserable husband, as he goes to expiate by a long confinement, the crime he had committed against society.

The Special Agent's experience, fortunately for him, is not always of this somber hue. The readers of "Ten Years among the Mail Bags" have found in that work some specimens of the professional life of one of our brotherhood, in its more humorous aspects. Nor is that vein yet exhausted. We shall continue to give from time to time incidents both grave and gay, which may fall under our observation, and we again invite our friends in the postal service to furnish us with such hits of their experience as may add to the interest of our columns.

"Boxing up" Letters.

Among the mistakes which post office clerks, particularly in large offices, are in danger of making, that of placing letters in the wrong boxes is one which is particularly important to avoid. For not only may much inconvenience result to the persons concerned, by the commission of this error, but it may be, as it has been, the means of placing a strong temptation in the way of the young men and boys who are sent to the office for their employer's letters. For example, a young man takes from his employer's box a letter intended for some other person, and wrongly placed there. It naturally occurs to him that if he were to retain possession of the letter and appropriate its contents, the chances of his detection would be small, since the post office clerk, who boxed the letters would be unable to tell where he placed this particular one, and in fact would not be likely to believe that he had committed an error in boxing. This probable impunity (as he deems it) would be very likely to turn in the wrong direction the mind of one who was wavering between right and wrong.

An example to this point occurred not long ago in one of our large cities. A letter containing several coupons of Hartford city bonds was wrongly boxed, and taken out by a clerk of the person in whose box the letter had been placed. The clerk opened the letter, and finding the coupons within, wrote under a false name to the Mayor of Hartford, requesting him to cash the coupons. The Mayor, not considering this to be something wrong from the irregularity of the transaction, referred the case to a Special Agent. Some investigation brought to light the fact that the numbers of the bonds to which the coupons belonged were the same as some that had been stolen in an extensive robbery of the mail at the West, some months previously. It was arranged between the Special Agent and the Mayor, that a letter should be written by the latter, inclosing a check for the amount of the coupons, and addressed as requested by the clerk, to box No.—(which was that of his employer.) Watch was kept, and the young man was seen opening the letter from the Mayor

Being detained and questioned, he had seen explanation of his proceedings, that he had seen the coupons lying for some time in a drawer in the office of his employer, (a broker) and thought he would try to collect them, for which purpose he adopted, as we have seen, the original device of sending them to the Mayor of the city which had issued the bonds.

Further investigation showed that the young man's account was correct, the coupons having been placed in the drawer by a responsible book keeper in the establishment, who found them on the floor where the clerk afterwards confessed he had placed them. The truthfulness of this statement was corroborated by the fact that the coupons were advertised at the time when they were thus found. But the letter containing them having been destroyed by the clerk, all allude to the Western robbery, which seemed about to be supplied by the twice-stolen coupons, at once vanished.

It became the duty of the Agent to disclose the matter to the young man's employer, who, notwithstanding the intercession of the Agent, called the clerk and thus addressed him: "You scoundrel, what do you mean by using our box and disgracing the firm? Go and starve if you want to. I don't want thieves hanging round me. You may go to destruction for anything I care." And thus he went on for some time, displaying no sympathy with the poor youth, who had undoubtedly been guilty of a highly blameworthy act, yet this, so far as could be ascertained, was his first offense, and the course taken by his employer was directly calculated to drive him to discouragement and ruin. The virtuous indignation of the broker was believed by those who knew him best, to be a "bogus" article. But Satan rebukes sin with a great deal of fervor, perhaps from a jealousy of being outdone in his own line.

In view of such sad results as the above, be careful in the matter of "boxing up."

A Rascally Trick.

We have before alluded to the ingenious frauds resorted to sometimes even by individuals and business firms in good standing, to fix distrust and suspicion on the post office, in the matter of money remittances claimed to have been sent through the mails.

A case of this kind has just been brought to light within the boundaries of the "Nutmeg State," (and outside of all the counties with the exception, perhaps, of old Middlesex,) which in justice to the P.O. Department and its employees immediately interested, ought not to be passed over in silence. It was none of your commonplace pieces of knavery, but a cool, well arranged scheme for fixing a criminal charge on innocent parties connected with the post office.

A gentleman (?) doing business in M., was indebted to a firm in F—H—, in the sum of \$120. The money was to be sent as other remittances had previously been by mail. The letter was received minus the cash. Information of the loss, was communicated to one of the Government special agents who investigated the matter closely. The first question to be settled was, was the money actually enclosed in the letter?

It appeared from the statement of the merchant, that having previously written the letter, he sent his clerk to the bank to obtain large notes, two fifties and one twenty, which were folded into the letter in the presence of the young man, who took it immediately to the post office. This was fully confirmed by the clerk in question, who with great apparent and no doubt real honesty, insisted that he witnessed the whole transaction—saw the money enclosed, and the letter sealed, which he carried directly to the office, where he would take his oath, both the letter and its contents were safely deposited in the hands of one of the post office clerks, of whom a stamp was purchased and placed upon the letter. There seemed to be left but slight grounds upon which to base a suspicion, outside the post office at least. The thing had been beautifully fixed up to be sure, and our slippery friend, the merchant, thought the Agent might as well go about other business if he had any!

But certain indescribable evidences of something wrong in the merchant's manner, and the trifling affair of three cents, led to the final discovery.

In separately questioning the employer and the employed, the former stated that he gave the latter the money with which to buy a postage stamp, while the clerk was perfectly sure that he went to the money-drawer, some distance from where the two had been standing, for the three pennies. Here was exactly the required opportunity for the bank notes to be withdrawn from the letter, without the clerk's knowledge.

The next point was to endeavor to discover privately where our friend had passed the large bills which he probably had failed to remit. Anticipating the possibility of this discovery, the merchant absolutely let pussy-out of the bag himself. He obtained two other fifties on the same bank as the others, went to a confidential friend and asked him to take the bills and hand them back to him again, in order that if the place of exchange of the first notes was found out, he could refer to this friend as having paid him bills of that denomination and bank! The friend being an honorable man, and seeing that the request bore upon the letter transaction, declined to comply, and very promptly exposed in the proper quarter the application thus made to him. Not only did he do this, but knowing of a considerable payment recently made by the merchant, intimated where the original fifties had been used. The clue thus obtained, brought out the whole transaction, and effectually fixed the guilt of this cunningly devised plan upon the right shoulders.

It is to be regretted that Congress has provided no penalty for this class of troublesome delinquencies.

The order of the Post Master General, stopping the Southern mails, applies only to the following States: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas.—Letters for Western Virginia are to be sent to Wheeling for distribution. Matter for other Southern States, is sent as usual.

New Postal Laws and Instructions.

[OFFICIAL.]

The following Extracts from Postal Laws of the session of 1860-61, with instructions to postmasters, have been prepared at the Post Office Department:

NEW RATES OF POSTAGE UNDER AN ACT ESTABLISHING CERTAIN POST ROUTES, APPROVED FEBRUARY 27, 1861.

"Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That every letter or packet brought into the United States, or carried from one port thereof to another, in any private ship or vessel, shall be charged with five cents, if delivered at the post office where the same shall arrive; and if destined to be conveyed by post to any place, with two cents added to the ordinary rates of postage. Provided, That upon all letters or packets conveyed in whole or in part by steamers or steamships over any route upon which, or between ports or places between which the mail is regularly conveyed in other vessels under contract with the Post Office Department, the same charge shall be levied, with the addition of two cents a letter or packet, as would have been levied if such letter or packet had been transmitted regularly through the mail.

"Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of the preceding sections of this act be, and the same are hereby repealed."

Under this law, ship and steamboat letters, as described in section 164 of the standing Regulations of the Department, shall be charged with five cents, if delivered at the post office where the same shall arrive, (instead of six cents, as formerly;) if destined to be conveyed by post from such office, two cents in addition to the ordinary rates of inland postage. For instance, a ship letter arriving at New York, or San Francisco, for any place in the interior, and not over 3,000 miles, nor beyond the Rocky mountains, will be charged five cents; and if over 3,000 miles, or beyond the Rocky mountains, twelve cents.

The existing regulation (108) is repealed. The proviso as to letters or packets conveyed, in whole or in part, by steamers or steamships over any route on which the mail is conveyed in other vessels under contract with the Post Office Department, must be carefully observed, in all such cases the rates by private vessels shall not be lower than those regularly conveying mails.

"Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for persons known as regular dealers in newspapers and periodicals to receive by mail such quantities of either as they may require, and to pay the same rates as regular subscribers to such publications. Provided, That the Postmaster General be authorized to establish a daily or semi-weekly delivery of letters and newspapers by carriers, throughout a circuit of nine miles from the City of New York, in the City of New York, under the supervision of the Postmaster of New York, whenever, in his judgment, the revenue from such service shall defray the expense thereof."

The effect of this is to entitle regular dealers in newspapers and periodicals to the same abatement of the rates of postage (without paying quarterly or yearly in advance, but upon the receipt of their packages) as is now made for regular subscribers, under section 117 of the standing Regulations.

"Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That maps, engravings, lithographs, or photographic prints, rollers or in paper covers; books, bound or unbound; photographic paper, and letter envelopes, shall be deemed valuable matter, and charged with postage by the weight of the package, not in any case to exceed four pounds, at the rate of one cent an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, to any place in the United States under fifteen hundred miles, and at the rate of two cents an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, over fifteen hundred miles, to be prepaid by postage stamps.

"Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That cards, blank or printed, in packages weighing at least eight ounces, and seeds or cuttings, in packages not exceeding eight ounces in weight, shall also be deemed valuable matter, and charged with postage at the rate of one cent an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, to any place in the United States under fifteen hundred miles, and at the rate of two cents an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, over fifteen hundred miles, to be prepaid by postage stamps."

These sections explain themselves. Section 12 adds to the articles heretofore enumerated as valuable matter the following, viz: Maps, engravings, lithographs, or photographic prints, on rollers or in paper covers, photographic paper, and letter envelopes. Postage is chargeable by the weight of the package, not to exceed four pounds, at one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce to any place in the United States under fifteen hundred miles, and two cents an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, over fifteen hundred miles, to be prepaid by postage stamps.

Books, bound or unbound, are embraced in this section, (changing the former laws and section 124 of the Regulations, which fixed 3,000 miles as the limit within which one cent an ounce is chargeable.)

Section 13 provides that cards, either blank or printed, and blanks in packages, weighing not less than eight ounces, and packages of seeds or cuttings, not more than eight ounces in weight, shall be charged with postage at the rate of one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce to any place in the United States under fifteen hundred miles, and at the rate of two cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce over fifteen hundred miles, to be prepaid by stamps.

All packages referred to in sections 12 and 13 must be plainly marked, showing their contents, and (excepting those containing seeds) so packed that their true character may be seen. Cuttings must be so secured as not to endanger other packages contained in the same mails. No written or printed matter, except the address and description of the contents, can accompany packages of seeds or cuttings without separate postage thereon; and to guard against the possibility of fraud in this respect, postmasters shall exercise the privilege of opening and examining packages of seeds and cuttings, as provided by section 139 of the Regulations in reference to all printed matter.

"Sec. 14. And be it further enacted, That the act of March 3rd, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, entitled "An act to amend the act entitled 'An act to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States, and for other purposes,' passed March 3rd, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, be and the same is hereby so modified as to require the ten cent rate of postage to be prepaid on letters conveyed by mail from any point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, to any State or Territory on the Pacific, and from any State or Territory on the Pacific, to any point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. Heretofore the rate was three cents within the distance of three thousand miles. This provision is now repealed so far as letters between points east and west of the Rocky mountains are concerned.

(5) This is an important law, affecting especially the rates of postage between the Atlantic and Pacific States and Territories. No letter can now be sent for less than ten cents, prepaid by stamp, whatever the distance, from any point in the United States east of the Rocky mountains to any State or Territory on the Pacific, or from any State or Territory on the Pacific, to any point in the United States east of the Rocky mountains. Heretofore the rate was three cents within the distance of three thousand miles. This provision is now repealed so far as letters between points east and west of the Rocky mountains are concerned.

Section 14 also makes the prepayment of drop letters by postage stamps, compulsory. Further changes are made by an act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office

Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1862, approved March 2, 1861.

Section 1 provides that no compensation shall be paid to postmasters after June 30, 1861, for the delivery of free letters or papers to their recipients, except to the postmaster at Washington city. Therefore sections 109 and 312 of the standing Regulations of the Department are repealed.

Section 2 repeals the law under which dead letters are now opened and disposed of in San Francisco, California, and provides that they shall be sent for that purpose to the Department at Washington.

Section 4 prohibits any one, other than the Postmaster General or his authorized agent, to set up any foot or horse post for the conveyance of letters or packets upon post routes which have been or may hereafter be established in any town or city by the Postmaster General.

Section 9 requires the contractors for mails between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Placerville, California, in addition to the daily overland mail, to run a pony express semi-weekly at a schedule time of ten days during eight months of the year, and of twelve days during four months of the year. They are also to carry for the government on this line, free of charge, five pounds of mail matter, with the liberty of charging the public, (beyond the regular rate of postage, to be prepaid,) for transportation of letters by said express, any sum not exceeding one dollar per half ounce.

Postmasters will therefore take notice that letters prepaid at the toll route, at any point east of the Rocky mountains, and marked to go by the pony express, must be mailed to St. Joseph; and those on the Pacific, similarly prepaid and marked, must be mailed to Placerville.

But no letter shall be forwarded by the pony express from the post offices at St. Joseph and Placerville, or from any point between the same, except (1) government mail, and (2) such other letters as shall bear, in addition to the prepaid United States postage, the proper authorized mark of the contractors, showing the prepayment of such sum (not exceeding one dollar per half ounce) as they shall require under the said section of the law.

Such payment to the contractors is not within the duties of postmasters. Their whole duty is to see that the United States postage is paid on all such cases prepaid, and that no other than government letters are sent by the pony express, except they also bear the contractors' authorized mark of their own prepaid charge.

Unless the contractors' charge is thus shown to be prepaid, all such letters, although marked "pony express," will be forwarded by the regular daily overland mail.

Postmasters at St. Joseph and at Placerville are instructed to deliver to the agent of the pony express, at their respective offices, all prepaid packages directed to such agent; but such packages cannot be remailed without additional postage, at the regular rate, to be prepaid at the point of mailing.

All packages marked "pony express," and prepaid as aforesaid, but not time allowed for delivery "to the agent of the pony express at —" will be forwarded in the express mail pouch, under lock, between St. Joseph and Placerville, and thence forwarded by regular mail.

But the postmasters at Placerville and St. Joseph will deliver to the agent of the contractors at those points a way-bill, showing the contents of each pouch sent by pony express mail from their offices; blanks for which will be furnished by the contractors, to be filled up by the postmasters, and to serve the contractors as checks on its contents.

POSTAGE STAMPS & ENVELOPES.

ACT OF CONGRESS ESTABLISHING CERTAIN POST ROUTES, APPROVED FEBRUARY 27, 1861.

"Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to procure and furnish letter sheets with postage stamps impressed thereon, (combining in one both a sheet and envelope, and such other improvements as may be deemed advisable, from time to time, in connexion with postage stamps or stamped envelopes for letters or newspapers, subject to the provision that such stamps or envelopes shall be sold at the cost of procuring and furnishing the same, as near as may be, and to all other provisions of the eighth section of an act of Congress entitled "An act to establish certain post roads, and for other purposes," approved August 10th, 1853."

The department is not yet prepared to furnish stamped letter sheets or newspaper envelopes. Letter envelopes, official size, of larger denominations than any now in use, are expected soon to be issued.

"Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the penalty of fifty dollars by section 8 of an act of Congress entitled "An act to amend the act of March 3rd, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, shall apply as well to the using of a stamp cut from a stamped letter or newspaper envelope entire."

This section imposes the same penalty for using a stamp cut from a stamped envelope as that which now attaches under the acts of March 3, 1851, and March 3, 1853, to using a second time an ordinary postage stamp or stamped envelope.—(See sections 147 and 151 of the Postal Laws for the use of postmasters.) Sections 405 and 406 of the Regulations are therefore so changed as to embrace stamps cut from stamped envelopes.

DEAD LETTERS.

"Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That letters which have been advertised under existing laws (vide section twenty-six, act of March three, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, and section five, act of March three, eighteen hundred and fifty-one) shall be returned to the Post Office Department as dead letters, if unclaimed two months after the date of the advertisement: Provided, That letters at sea ports intended for persons on board of certain mail vessels expected to arrive, and letters specially marked to be retained a longer period, shall be excepted from the operation of this act: And provided further, That said letters shall be returned under regulations to be prescribed by the Postmaster General."

This new law now requires that all letters remaining unclaimed two months after the date of their advertisement shall be returned to the Dead Letter Office. Heretofore they have been retained in post offices three months or longer, and generally sent to this department at the end of each quarter with the quarterly return.

In this respect the new law makes a radical change; requiring the return of dead letters without reference to the quarterly periods, and separate from the quarterly returns.

The law of March 3, 1851, requires that lists of letters remaining unclaimed for shall be published once in every six weeks, and as much oftener, not exceeding once a week, as the Postmaster General may specially direct.—(See section 56 of Postal Laws.)

Section 181 [chap. xiii] of the Regulations requires post offices to advertise letters as follows:

1. Once in six weeks when the gross receipts do not exceed \$500 per quarter.
2. Once a month when the receipts are over \$500, and not over \$1,000 per quarter.
3. Twice a month when the receipts are over \$1,000, and not over \$7,500 per quarter.
4. Once a week when the receipts exceed \$7,500 per quarter.

(15) Returning unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of each advertise-

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, JULY, 1861.

No. 10

Harrowfork Post Office.

[CONTINUED.]

About the new postmaster. He was the favorite of no faction, and the appointment came to him as unexpectedly as the public. This is the way of it.

About the time, the "Town Committee," having first endorsed a paper in favor of Wheeler, sent privately to Washington to inform the Postmaster General that the said endorsement was a mere formality, to be taken no notice of whatever; and to recommend a new candidate named Foster.

The Department becoming not a little disgusted with the whole business, wrote to a "reliable" man in the vicinity, but not in the town, for advice on the subject. Flattered by the compliment, the "reliable" person drew up an elaborate paper on the subject, demonstrating that the party would be endangered by the appointment of either of the rival candidates, and representing that some such cool-headed and discreet individual as Mr. Walters, (a widower of forty,) against whom no prejudice had been raised, and who would no doubt prove acceptable to the entire community, should receive the commission. This "reliable" man was supposed of course to be quite disinterested. His suggestion was accordingly adopted, and Walters walked into the post office, as Upton walked out.

But little opposition would have been excited against the new incumbent, had the manner of his appointment remained a secret. But the "reliable" man thought it too good to keep. He desired that society should know what an important personage he had become. The dignity of his being consulted by the Department at Washington, would be but half enjoyed privately. He accordingly rode over to Harrowfork, shook hands with the "Selectmen," talked about the post office, and laughed inwardly, holding his sides and looking suspiciously wise, whenever the subject of the new appointment was broached. He knew a thing or two—he could tell a secret if he chose—there was more than one way to settle a quarrel—he knew the Department, the Department knew him. Ha! ha! ha! and ho! ho! ho! etc.

Horrible doubts racked the brain of John Harmon. He took Amindah Fogle aside. "Look here," said he, "What relation is Judge Ames (the 'reliable' man) to the new postmaster?"

"I declare," replied Fogle, "I never thought of that! Walters is Ames' wife's sister's husband's youngest brother! He is dreadful thick, too, with the family, and the talk is he is going to marry Ames' daughter!"

"That explains it," said John Harmon; "I knew there was something of the kind at the bottom of it all. Keep dark, and I'll pump the way until we get out of him all about the judge this rascally appointment has been made."

Already it was a rascally appointment. After Harmon's talk with the Judge, who was but too ready to acknowledge his instrumental part in the matter, it became a detestable appointment, and an "underhanded proceeding." And scarce had the tail of the Judge's horse disappeared over the bridge that night, when all Harrowfork rang with the discovery that had been made. Little thought the "reliable" man as he went home, checking over the joke, what a hornet's nest he had kindled. But he probably knew something of it the following Sunday, when the widower, Walters, went over to Amesbury to pay a visit to the Judge's family in general, and his eldest daughter in particular.

The truth is, a deafening hum of indignation had gone up from Harrowfork, and it was "universally declared that the new appointment was by far the most objectionable that could possibly have been made."

The result was, the Department, the "reliable" man, and the new postmaster, individually and collectively, got soundly abused by all hands; and it was not long before a delegation was dispatched to Washington to expose the fraud, and remonstrate against the continuance of Walters in office. Against the latter the most serious charges were preferred. It was claimed, among other things, that he had been in town but a few years; furthermore, that he had some time since held the office of postmaster in a neighboring State, and had resigned to prevent being removed for official delinquencies. It was mainly on this ground that the Postmaster General was induced to recall his commission. Scarcely was this done, however, when it was discovered that the unfortunate man had been wronged; that it was another Walters who had been a postmaster, &c.

Anxious to make immediate reparation, the Department hastened to send on the papers again; but by this time, Walters, indignant at the manner in which he had been treated, refused to accept the office, writing a light-toned and dignified letter on the subject to the Postmaster General:

"I do not wish," said he, "to have anything whatever to do with the petty strife of politics. I have not sought, neither do I desire, any public office. Had such been my ambition, my recent experience would be sufficient entirely to eradicate the disease, unless it had become chronic, from the effects of breathing too long the malaria of political society."

"Some men are born great; some achieve greatness; and others have greatness thrust upon them;" mine was of the last description; but I am thankful that it has been temporary: nor shall I again consent to endure the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, in so lofty and exalted a position as that of postmaster of Harrowfork.

The sharp and independent style of this epistle made Walters quite popular with the Department, and he was again urged to accept the commission, which he again refused.

"In the first place—we have it on the authority of an old lady who knows the genealogy of every family in the county, and can trace most people's ancestry back to Noah—Blake is Atkins' second cousin. There's one point. Now for another: Blake owns three-fourths of the entire *Goblet* printing establishment, and holds the property in such a way that he can any day take the paper into his own hands, and manage it to suit himself! Therefore, whoever edits the *Goblet* is Blake's tributary. We were going to say too, or slave, but concluded to sacrifice truth to politeness. Thus it happens that Atkins is only, as it were, Blake's left hand, &c."

After several more paragraphs of the same sort, the author of the annihilating article, who found it very difficult to conclude the subject, being of a very rich and attractive nature, finally summed up all his points, and bound them together with a striking original quotation at-

tribution to Shakespeare; it was as follows: "O consistency! thou art a jewel!"

Which, like the tomb, only and envious, Means yet a precious secret in his head. It was this mongrel quotation which damped the *Freeman's* powder. The *Goblet* took it up, turning the laugh against its rival; and for months the modern style of rendering Shakespeare was a standing joke. Of course a copy of the *Freeman*, containing the editorial marked, was sent to the Postmaster General; but on reading about the tomb, at the end of the annihilating article, the Department dismissed the whole subject with a good-natured laugh.

Notwithstanding the truth of the charges against him, Blake was continued in office. "It was probably the fun of the thing that saved him." Then followed a lull. The good people of Harrowfork, worn out with the harassing post office question, and it was permitted to rest until the approach of the next Congressional election.

Atkins of the *Goblet* went openly to work to secure the re-nomination of Savage. But in the meantime, a "spy in Washington"—there are always "spies in Washington"—privately gave information to the leading Maine-law men in the district, concerning the honorable member's very equivocal support of temperance principles. Armed with this intelligence, the indignant constituency remonstrated with Atkins on the inconsistency of his course. He, however, "flatly denied" the allegations against Savage.

"Very well," said the constituency; "you may be sincere, but we shall investigate the matter a little." At the allusion to investigation, Atkins winced, and endeavored to dissuade his friends from such a needless step.

"We'll have a committee appointed to write Savage a letter, at all events, and demand an exposition of his principles," replied they.

"I want to know what sort of a man we are supporting. We went for Savage before, mainly through your influence; now we're determined to make sure it's all right before we give him a single vote."

"Nonsense, gentlemen, said Atkins; "of course it's all right! Don't go to bothering our candidate with letters. Letters are the devil in politics."

The temperance men, however, were not to be dissuaded, and a letter was written, in which the Hon. member was asked, among other things, if he was, or was not "in the habit of using intoxicating liquors as a beverage, while at the seat of Government?"

In reply to this question, the gentleman of "enlightened views" wrote to the committee:—"I frankly admit, that in consequence of the bad water at Washington, which has so deleterious an effect upon my health, when I drink it, as to render me for a large portion of the time unfit for business, I have occasionally resorted to medicinal wine, and have resorted to ardent spirits, simply as a remedial agent. Yet the habit has been confined strictly to the Capital. Never out of Washington have I indulged in anything but pure water, or a medicinal wine."

This letter was received with significant nods and winks, expressive of doubts and disapprobation, by the committee; and it was sent to the "Goblet" for publication. In the mean time, however, its author had given Atkins private instructions on the subject; and the "Goblet" declined to publish the letter.

"Gentlemen," said Atkins, when called on for an explanation, "this is an absurd affair from beginning to end. I opposed the proceeding at the outset. I consider the letter perfectly satisfactory; but my readers are tired of these things, and so am I. I must therefore be excused from having anything to do with the advertisement!"

"Not if I paid for it!"

"No, not if paid for gentlemen!" said the imperturbable Atkins.

"Very well," replied the committee, "expressed," "we know who will publish it."

They went across the way to the office of the "Freeman," who was called, "Mr. Harmon, who was of the committee, knew the editor, and took him confidentially aside.

"Atkins," said he, "refuses to print this document; 'twill be just the thing for you, and it will spite him to see it in the *Freeman*."

"To tell you the truth," said he, "I'm afraid to publish it. 'Twill just suit our moderate drinkers, and I'm not so sure but it would injure our candidate with that class of men. On the whole," said he, "I think I won't print it."

Filled in this quarter, John Harmon brought him of the "News Courier," a neutral paper published in a neighboring town, which offered to print communications relating to the approaching campaign, provided they were written in a proper spirit, and did not compromise too much its position as a neutral journal.

The *Savage* letter was accordingly sent to the Courier, and promptly appeared in its columns. But the editor, desiring to keep both scales of the balance as nearly in equilibrium as possible, inserted in the same number of his paper a very profound, scientific treatise, signed "Filtor," giving an analysis of the Washington water, showing that its chemical properties were identical with those of the member's own well at home! And strongly questioning the utility of mixing whiskey with it at all, and more especially such whiskey as is too often sold at the seat of Government!

The result was decisive. The *Goblet* lost popularity and patronage; Atkins lost influence and money; and Savage lost the election. On the other hand, the "News Courier" gained the favor and support of the temperance people, by "its bold and manly course" in exposing the rottenness of Savage's principles. John Harmon was triumphant; and one of the very leaders of the temperance cause was sent to Congress.

The new member was no other than Judge Ames, the "reliable" man, himself! Reader, be not surprised! Political life is fertile in such unexpected events. The Judge had gained popularity, by coming out strongly for the Maine law. The old party to which he belonged had endorsed his nomination, John Harmon elected for him, and lent his horse and wagon to bring invalids, old men, and indifferent voters to the polls, on election day; and the Judge was returned by an overwhelming majority. (To be concluded in next No.)

Southern Postmasters.

We print the following letter, believing that the views expressed by our eccentric friend are shared by not a few in his State, as well as in other Southern States. It was written previously to the discontinuance of the U. S. Mail service in that State:

R.—, North Carolina, May 2, 1861.

DEAR SIR:—Hurray for Uncle Sam! I shall venture to raise this shout on paper, though if I were to utter it in the hearing of any evil-disposed person, it might bring me in closer acquaintance with one of the staple products of our State than I should care to be. But as I am postmaster here, I think it will be safe to indulge in this little private burst of patriotism.

I am aware that this is a rather abrupt way of commencing a letter to a stranger, but I trust you will sympathize with the feeling which dictated it. If you have ever been placed in circumstances similar to mine, you know how hard a thing it is to keep still when you want to speak, and to be obliged to say one thing when you want to say another. People talk of laughing in one's sleeve. One may swear a little in the same way.

I am for the Union, as I have a hereditary right to be. I was born in Boston, but being of a roving disposition, and in fact having an attack of the "seventeen year old fever," I thought I would seek my fortune, (which, by the way, I never found,) and in the course of my journeyings, I found an uncle in this part of the State, who very kindly befriended me when I had almost become reduced to the husky larva of the prodigal son, and obtained for me a clerkship in the post office of this town. My uncle is a slave holder on a small scale, but I have never attained to the dignity of owning a "fat nigger," as John Mitchell wanted to, or indeed any nigger at all, whether fat or lean. Post office clerks don't generally indulge in such luxuries. Well, after a while I succeeded the old man—(the postmaster I mean) and have enjoyed for a few years a salary sufficient for the wants of myself and my small family. But this confounded rebellion or revolution, or whatever you may call it, is likely to play the mischief with my prospects.

Uncle Sam is not a bad paymaster, anyhow. Whether Uncle Jeff will be as good remains to be seen, and I don't know in fact whether I shall stop to see. There are a good many Union men hereabouts, though they are a little uncertain as yet about the designs of the North. I believe a great many lies have been told about the North, and about the South too, for that matter, and if the truth was known, the Union feeling would be greatly increased and strengthened.

The Union folks know me to be one of them, and bring their letters to my office, knowing that their confidence will not be betrayed. I hear there is some talk of discontinuing the mail-service at the South on the part of the United States, and I don't blame 'em for that, though I fear it will be laid on me, as well as my brother officials. As my pay depends on the per centage I receive from mails, it has been growing smaller of late, and I can't tell what it will end in. I believe my office does better, though, than some others, because I always deliver what is sent here. I don't burn papers nor open letters, so people know that if they subscribe for a paper they will have it, as far as I am concerned. A good many papers have been stopped by the subscribers elsewhere, because the postmasters wouldn't deliver them, or would make a great fuss about their taking them. I don't think these postmasters were very wise for themselves in this course. However, that is their business. If they think it fair and right, so be it—I don't. But aside from personal considerations, it makes me feel sad to think that such a bond of union as the post office system may perhaps be severed. This seems to be the last link that holds the South and North together, and should this separation come about, I should feel more than ever that the nation was indeed divided.

I have read your paper with much interest, and not only that, I have found it almost indispensable in keeping me posted up about many things that I wanted to know in my office. I don't see how we ever got along before you commenced publishing the "MAIL." There are few merchants and no postmasters (at least at the North) to whom it is not worth far more than the subscription price. I judge by myself and by others who take it.

Excuse me, for this long and rambling letter, which may have occupied enough of your time in its perusal to have caught a rogue or two, and believe me. Yours respectfully,

T.—

BLACK MAILING.—The youngest clerk in a certain large post office, is in the habit of saying a good thing now and then—too good to be lost.

Hearing two of the older clerks the other day discussing the policy of Gen. Butler's holding out to the fugitive darkies, John asked if this did not subject the General to the charge of levying black mail upon the South.

On another occasion John modestly expressed the opinion that the stories about so many negroes coming into camp were no doubt highly colored.

The Biter Bit.

A lady of very genteel and respectable appearance called one day on a prominent New England postmaster, with a letter in her hand, which she insisted had been broken open and reread. She handed the letter to the postmaster, who examined it, and appearances certainly seemed to justify her assertion.

She further declared that she well knew which clerk in the office had broken it open, and that he had previously served several of her letters in the same way. Upon hearing this, the postmaster requested her to walk inside the office, and point out the person whom she suspected.

Such an unusual phenomenon as the appearance of a lady inside the office, produced, as may be supposed, a decided sensation among the clerks there assembled. Nor was the sensation diminished in intensity when the postmaster informed them, that the lady was there for the purpose of identifying the person who had been guilty of breaking open her letters!

This announcement at once excited the liveliest feelings of curiosity and solicitude in the mind of almost every one present, and each one, conscious of innocence, indulged in conjectures as to who that somebody else might be, whom the accusing Angel (?) was to fix upon as the culprit.

All their conjectures fell wide of the mark. After looking about for a moment, the lady pointed out the last man whom any one in the office would have suspected of such an offence—one of the oldest and most reliable of their number.

"That is the person," said she, indicating him by a slight nod of the head; "and if he persists in making so free with my letters, I will certainly have him arrested. Why my letters should always be selected for this purpose, I cannot imagine; but if any more of them are touched, he will wish he had let them alone."

This direct charge, and these threats, produced a great commotion among his fellow clerks than in the mind of the gentleman accused. Waiting for a moment after she had spoken, he broke the breathless silence that followed her words, by saying calmly,—

"Mrs. —, I believe?"

"That is my name, sir."

"Have you concluded your remarks, madam?"

"I have, sir, for the present."

"Then, madam, I will take the liberty to inform you that your husband is the person on whom you ought to expend your indignation. He has, at different times, taken several of your letters from the office, opened and read them, and after rereading, returned them to the letter-box, having made certain discoveries in those letters, to which he forced me to listen, as furnishing sufficient ground for his course, and justifying former suspicions. He earnestly requested me never to disclose who had opened the letters, and I should have continued to observe secrecy, had not your accusation forced me to this disclosure in self-defence. If you wish to have my statement corroborated, I think I can produce a reliable witness."

The lady did not reply to this proposition, but made a precipitate retreat, leaving the clerk master of the field, and was never afterwards seen at that post office.—Ten Years Among the Mail Bags.

OWN TIMES.—There is a clerk in the New York post office, who was employed some forty years ago to carry all the Southern mails across the North River, on their way to the South. The accounts which he gives of his performances in that capacity, are highly amusing, when compared with the extensive mail service of later years. He used to take all the mail bags in a small skiff, and "skull his own boat." In the winter season, when the passage was obstructed by floating ice, he says he would often be compelled to haul his boat upon huge cakes of ice, push it across, and then embark again with his treasures.

We intend soon to occupy a column or two with the interesting postal reminiscences of this veteran in the mail service.

Letter Addresses.

The following lines were written upon and copied from a daguerreotype package from one of the camps near Washington, passing through the New York post office.

"Tis the pictured face of a loved one dear,
And father and mother will shed a tear,
As they gaze upon it and fondly sigh,
For the absent boy with the dark blue eye.
Let it pass on to the old ones dear,
Though they weep and sigh 'mid hope and fear."

It may be dearer yet some day,
Should the darling boy soon pass away.

I wish I was at Fort Moxroe,
Down there, down there,
Where "contrabands" are all the go,
Down there, down there, down there,
I soon would find friend BILLY WAGNER,
And wouldn't he and I get tight,
Down there, down there,
Away in old VIRGINIA.

I want to go to Fort Moxroe,
As soon as you can do it,
Now send me there, or this I swear,
You certainly shall rue it,
For I will get CORONEL MIXBERT,
To call on Mr. Blair,
And I suppose he'll pull your nose,
And probably your hair.

Whereas: Old Abe to save the nation,
Against the late rebellious rout,
Has called by public proclamation,
Some hundred thousand soldiers out—
And, Whereas, Jeff Davis also fearing,
The war may not be all his own,
Since he has gone to privateering,
And wishes to be "let alone!"

Now, Therefore, pass me on by mail,
In haste to ANNA BRADY, the girl,
You'll find her out in Carbonado,
Just over in the State of TEXAS.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, JULY, 1861.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POSTAGE.—The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

Curiosity.

Ab. curiosity, first cause of all ill.
And yet the plague which most torments us still.

The beautiful of gastronomic delight for the donkey is the mastication of a good, prickly thistle. Under the influence of this spinous aliment the asinine character attains its full development at all points. And there are bipeds of analogous mental tastes, whose instincts lead them merrily to revel in subjects which better natures scorn to touch or look upon. Knowledge is power, but the kind of power depends upon the kind of knowledge that produces it. The accumulation of knowledge tending to the annoyance or more serious injury of others, is only a power for evil, and the possession of such a power is the highest aim of some ignoble characters who delight in holding the lash suspended in *terrorem* over their neighbors' heads, although they may not always use it. But it is generally with them as with a child, for whom the ownership of a whip loses it charms if he is not allowed to crack it. The fact that a neighbor has an affair in hand which for any reason he would not like to have made public, is a sufficient stimulus to their malicious curiosity, and all deficiencies in the information which they may ferret out concerning the matter are supplied by a fertile imagination which is sure to set forth in magnified proportions and vivid colors whatever circumstances may tend to the discredit of the person concerned.

There is another class of inquisitive persons more numerous but less malicious than those of whom we have been speaking; yet on the whole perhaps as mischievous as they. The injury which they inflict is rather the result of the indulgence of a foolish curiosity than of deliberate malice, but it is as real and as great in the one case as in the other. It is small consolation to one who has his leg broken by the kick of a horse, to be informed that the kick was merely an ebullition of the animal's exuberant spirits.

These individuals of inquiring minds, when anything comes under their observation which has the spice of mystery about it, cannot be easy until they have discovered at least so much as to enable them to guess at the rest; nor is their satisfaction complete without some willing ear into which they may pour the results of their investigation and conjectures.

The post office service, especially in country places, is too often made an instrument of annoyance by those who are officially connected with it, and who possess more or less of this meddling curiosity.

The duties of postmasters and post office clerks should be regarded as strictly confidential toward the public as well as toward the Government. It is nobody's business but that of the parties concerned from whom or to whom a letter is written, (excepting, of course, the cases in which there is reason to suspect a treasonable correspondence,) and every attempt to intrude upon the sanctity of private intercourse through the mails is frowned upon by Government and punished, if discovered, according to the degree of the offense. There are postmasters and postmistresses, and post office clerks who do not hesitate to open letters, when they think they can avoid discovery, for the pitiful purpose of knowing what Mr. A. has written to Miss B. or what she has replied to him, or some other matter interesting to gossip. And there are many more whose conscientiousness or fear of detection withhold them from such deeds of actual crime, who nevertheless make out such a chain of circumstantial evidences as they can construct from the address of a letter, its postmark (the indistinctness of which often causes them much tribulation,) and perhaps the facilities afforded by a very thin envelope, which permits words and even sentences of the contents to be deciphered. The conjectures thus shaped and molded are imparted, of course, in strict confidence, to half-a-dozen particular friends, and equally of course are discharged like a shower of grape-shot among the astonished public.

Breaches of official trust like these have brought more discredit upon the Department, and have inspired more distrust than many graver misdemeanors and even actual crimes. People in general are sensitive, and justly too, in regard to the privacy of correspondence. This is shown, among other ways, by the fact that although a letter may be returned to the writer if not called for within a certain time, provided the request, with the writer's name, is indorsed upon the letter, very few avail themselves of this privilege. It may amuse a country community to hear the stories about one and another which are set afloat in the way we have described, but this feeling of amusement is succeeded by the consideration that no one knows when his turn may come to be pilloried in like manner, and a general distrust of the unfaithful official arises, which is sure to manifest itself to the disadvantage of the delinquent, whenever an opportunity occurs.

Post Master General Blair, made a flying visit to New York last week, on private business. His severe official labors do not seem to have affected his general health in the least.

Female Post Office Clerks.

A lively French writer, in speaking of the difference between the mental processes of the two sexes—how the one will reach a conclusion by a sort of instinct, which her slower brother must work out methodically and slowly—says that as you ascend to your conclusion step by step, you find a woman already at the head of the stairs, waiting for you to come up. This quickness of the female mind often misleads the stronger-bodied, if not the stronger-minded sex. We may take no little pains to secure the pleasure and accommodation of our fair sisters, and after all may find our well meant endeavors fail of their object in consequence of our inability to view the thing from their "stand-point," or to discern, with our dull vision, the hidden vices which their more acute perception at once discovers, or, (if we may be allowed thus to speak,) which their more vivid imagination at once fancies.

An example of this is found in the experience of the Post Office Department. Reasoning *a priori*, it was supposed that by employing ladies to attend at the "ladies window" in our larger post offices, the wishes of those who patronized that window would be perfectly met, and that such an arrangement would, by presenting Uncle Sam in the benignant aspect of a smiling and attentive young lady, render a call at the post office almost as agreeable to the ladies themselves, as a shopping excursion. Delusive anticipation! For some reason, perhaps because young men are more courteous towards ladies, or because the fair sex are naturally suspicious of one another in confidential matters like this, or for some more inscrutable cause which can only be dimly conjectured, it is certain that the innovation has met with no favor from those for whose benefit it was intended, and it has failed wherever it has been tried. Perhaps a female clerk at the gentlemen's window, would work better.

The Falmouth Case.

An important trial for mail robbery has occupied the attention of the U. S. District Court in Boston, recently, which has attracted no little interest, owing to the large amount of property involved, the curious history of the case from the beginning, and the influence and associations of some of the parties supposed to have been directly implicated, or in one way or another mixed up in the affair.

We will give a brief outline of the case, that our readers may the more readily understand the points in the trial which we shall allude to.

On the 22d of October last, the cashier of the Falmouth bank at Falmouth, Mass., put up a \$5000 package of bank notes, checks, drafts, etc., \$1,700 being in the notes of various New England banks, directed it to the cashier of the Suffolk bank, Boston, and deposited it in the hands of the postmaster of his town. It has never reached the Suffolk bank, according to the testimony of the officers of that institution, which is corroborated by the books of the bank in which such remittances are recorded, and still further by the records of the Boston post office, which show that no package for delivery, of the 22d of Oct., was received from Falmouth. Besides the bank letter and money parcel, there were five other letters in the package when it left Falmouth, all of which, together with the post bill, had mysteriously disappeared.

Falmouth is some 60 miles from Boston. The mail is brought by stage 16 miles, to Monument, a small rail road station on the Cape Cod rail road, and from thence to Boston by cars.

Between Falmouth and Monument there are three small post offices, but a way pouch is used for their accommodation, so that the Falmouth and Boston pouch, which is larger, is not opened or ereo removed from the stage coach until it arrives at the Monument station. The postmaster there opens it, sorts the contents, returning such parcels as are addressed to Boston, and putting in any which may have been made up at his own office.

In October last, the mail would have remained there about an hour, waiting for the train from Hyaonia, which was to convey the pouch to Boston, in charge of the baggage-man. Arriving at Boston, it is taken directly to the post office by the regular mail messenger. At the office is kept a daily record of the arrival of all the pouches, independent of the "transcripts," or copies of post bills, and that shows that the bag from Falmouth was received at about the usual time, and the transcripts prove that a distribution package did arrive from Falmouth, of the 22d Oct.—at once settling the question that the robbery could not have been caused by the theft of the entire pouch.

By direction of the Post Master General, an investigation of this loss was entered upon by one of his Special Agents, who soon became strongly impressed with the belief that the postmaster at Monument, for one, knew more about the robbery than he was willing to communicate, but he was of course kept in ignorance of any such suspicion. The great intimacy discovered between the postmaster and two stage drivers by the name of Hewins, and some other signs still more significant, led to the belief that one or both of them were equally well posted, with Parker the postmaster, as to the true cause of the failure of the bank package. Parker, however, was for a while kept in confidential relations with the Government Agent, and agreed to keep an eye upon the drivers, and any one else in that neighborhood who had an opportunity to have stolen the money, and report from time to time any and all discoveries. At the same time, one or two reliable neighbors of Parker, were employed to watch his movements.

One of the embarrassments of the case, was the fact that the bank cashier could furnish no means of identifying any of the bank notes, except that they were generally those of New England banks. Parker & Co. were aware of this, but they did not know the cashier had said that to the best of his recollection, there was one bill of the denomination of \$500. This matter stood for some time after the loss, when one of those mysterious circumstances—almost an accidental discovery—which so often transpire in criminal matters, came to light, pointing con-

clusively to the guilty parties. On the 14th of January, Joseph S. Hewins, one of the drivers already referred to, presented at the counter of the Falmouth bank a \$500 bill on the Canal bank, Portland, Maine, asking for Falmouth bank notes in exchange. The cashier, without hesitation or any questions, complied with the request, although at once connecting the circumstance with the robbery in October. He kept the bill he had thus received, and notified the Agent of all the facts.

One G. H. Baker, a citizen of Falmouth, accidentally hearing of the transaction, through one of the Bank directors, called at the bank and stated that in October last, he was at Portland, and having a check on the Canal bank for some \$900, he drew the bills on that bank, one of them being of the denomination of \$500—that he brought all this money directly home, and deposited it in the Falmouth bank, late in the afternoon of Saturday the 20th day of October. The cashier knew that early on Monday morning the 22d, he made up all his "foreign" funds—notes of other New England banks—for the Suffolk bank, and hence it followed that the \$500 bill in question, was in the stolen package. He also recalled the circumstance of Baker making a large deposit, and upon his original memorandum of the contents of the enclosures sent to the Suffolk bank, was an entry made of just the amount handed in by Baker. The only link now wanting, in this singular chain of evidence, was the full identity of the large bill in question. This was supplied by Baker, who fortunately had kept the number, and also knew the bill by other distinct marks.

Hewins' mode of accounting to the Agent for the possession of the \$500, was that it came through the mail, on the 12th of January, in an envelope bearing the Boston post mark, but containing nothing to indicate who the sender might be, and that it was handed to him by the postmaster at Monument.

"Where is the envelope," asked the Agent. "I don't know," replied Hewins, "I have hardly seen it since the day it came. I may have put it by, with some old letters."

After some further conversation, he went to his house, and a short search produced the desired dumb witness of the munificent act of some unknown friend or enemy, as the case might have been. It was indeed dumb in one sense, while in another, it was a loud-spoken accuser of a certain individual whose connection with this crime had been quite apparent from the commencement of the investigation. The address upon the envelope, although written seemingly in a feigned hand, afforded unmistakable evidence as to its author, who lived many miles away from the city indicated by the post mark, and not far from the office to which the envelope had been sent. It is not deemed proper at this time to comment further upon the part which this individual is believed to have played in the transmission of the stolen bill.

At the close of the interview with Hewins, just mentioned, he remarked that he thought he could guess who had sent him the bill—that he thought it might have been a certain man in Boston. As he declined to furnish the Agent with the name of the person indicated, it was suggested that he should write to him by mail, on that or the following day, and make known the answer received. This was agreed upon, but having little faith that the promise would be fulfilled, the Agent at once arranged with the postmaster of Boston to have an accurate list kept of the address of every letter received from Falmouth and Monument for several days. At the same time the Falmouth cashier was directed to make inquiry of Hewins about the third or fourth day, as to whether he had written as he had promised, the Agent believing that if an affirmative answer was given, and yet it could be shown that he had not written, it would be a tremendous fact against him, in connection with others. He did not write, and this being fully established, and admitted on the trial, it was one of the strong points relied upon to establish the guilt of the accused. At the time the bill was received, as was claimed, through the post office, the fortunate receipt took no note or memorandum thereof, but took it to the bank to be exchanged on the day after its pretended receipt. We have not the requisite space for anything like a detailed statement of the evidence upon the trial, which lasted about nine days. Some fifty witnesses were examined for and against the Government. The case was ably conducted on both sides—for the prosecution, by Hon. R. H. DANA, the U. S. District Attorney.

The jury were absent from their seats from 7 o'clock until 11 P. M., when they notified Judge Sprague that there was no prospect of an agreement, and were discharged, one of the jurors having received a dispatch notifying him of the severe illness of one of his family.

The jury stood ten for conviction and two for acquittal. Hewins was then required to give bail for his appearance in September, when a new trial will take place.

EXAMINING POST BILLS.—Since the prepayment of postage by stamps was inaugurated, no requirement of the Department has been oftener disregarded than that embraced in Sec. 61 of the P. O. Regulations, respecting the examination of post bills at the time they are received, and the careful comparison of the figures, rates, etc., with the letters themselves. An entire neglect of this duty or its hasty and partial performance, has led to much embarrassment in the investigation of complaints and has sometimes placed postmasters for a time in a most unpleasant dilemma, the post bill itself showing the receipt of an important letter, subsequently proved not to have been in the package at all.

In large offices, where the execution of the details of the work are too often unobserved by the postmaster, this and other apparently trifling matters are in quite too many instances, loosely managed. It should be understood that for all official purposes, the careful comparison of post bills with the letters, is as important as ever.

The communication of W. was not received in time for this number.

Official Courtesy.

It often comes in a postmaster's way to do a good-natured thing, and we are happy to say that so far as our observation extends, this class of government officers are ever ready to use the powers and privileges of their place as kind-hearted men should do. An example of this is furnished by the subjoined letter, which was received some months ago by the Postmaster of New York:—

DEAR SIR:—I sent a letter by yesterday's mail, addressed—Henry James Simpson, Esq., 32 H—street, *London, England*. This morning's mail brings me a letter from his mother saying that he is dead! And, oh God, that letter of mine to her son will reach her, if you cannot find it, and will wound still more her poor, wounded heart—for I have reproached him, the loved and lost one, for not writing—for having forgotten me—when his last word, almost, was "Ada!"

It has but one three-cent stamp on it, which may enable you to decide in which steamer it would be sent. Oh, if you will get that letter and destroy it for me, I will bless you forever!

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
Ada C—

I enclose my address.
Oh, will you write me one word immediately, to say whether you have found the letter or not? Henry James Simpson is the name, remember.

The letter was found, and returned to the writer as requested.

A Hard Case.

Extract from a letter received from D. W. Moore, Esq., late Special Agent of the P. O. Department, for Pennsylvania.

I returned home yesterday from the U. S. District Court at Williamsport, Penn., where I had been as a witness, in the case of the U. S. against Isaac Keller, who you will remember was arrested in Oct. last, for robbing the mails, being carried on the route from "Forks" in Columbia Co. to Laporte in Sullivan Co. The evidence closed on Wednesday evening, and was conclusive against the accused. On Thursday morning he did not appear, but the trial went on, and he was convicted.

As I was on my way home yesterday I passed a grave yard about sixteen miles from here, whence the people of the neighborhood were returning. On asking who was dead, I was told that a stranger was shot by mistake, for a deer on Friday night. It appeared that a father and son were out deer hunting—the father watching a "deer lick" and the son a "crossing" on the turnpike road. This stranger came along about 10 o'clock P. M., and the son, mistaking him for a deer, fired and shot him through the heart. It subsequently turned out that this stranger was Isaac Keller."

Verily, the way of the transgressor is hard.

CONVICTION AND SENTENCE OF A NOTED BRAGGARD AND POST OFFICE ROBBER.—James Luther McCoy, the notorious burglar and robber from Troy, N. Y., and chief actor in several flagrant crimes in Western Massachusetts, has for a time terminated his criminal career, and is paying penance in the state prison at Clinton, N. Y. He was tried at Troy on Friday, for burglary at W. F. Burden's house in that city, and failing to make any defence, he was convicted immediately, and sentenced to twenty years hard labor in the state prison. McCoy will be remembered as the fellow who, with an associate, entered the office of Crane & Co., paper makers in Dalton, and attempted to break open the safe; afterwards he robbed a store and post office in Worthington, and again the post offices in Becket and Pittsfield. He also committed several daring burglaries near Boston, for which there are now indictments pending against him. At the time of his operations in this part of the State, he was living with his wife in quiet retirement with a family in Hinsdale, and the disclosure of his character and crimes there was a matter of considerable surprise. During his residence there he spent the nights to plunder in the adjoining towns, and the property thus "confiscated" was probably transferred secretly, and disposed of in some city. McCoy is also supposed to be knowing to the fact, if not himself the murderer of Horace B. Sargent, who was killed outright and robbed, while walking the streets in Troy, early one evening last winter. During McCoy's short trial in Troy, he appeared an indifferent spectator, simply plead not guilty, and said he knew nothing of the crime charged, and if the case was pressed (which he declined to do), facts would be presented fully establishing his innocence. He is a young man of promising and respectable appearance, and the son of a very wealthy but not reputable father. He seems to have chosen crime as a profession, and around his home was known as a most daring, successful and law-evading scoundrel. He will now have abundant opportunity to reflect upon the past, repent the errors of his ways, and when he returns to the community, an old man, the lesson learned will be of benefit and warning.

We congratulate the public on the final "bringing up" of this desperate and unscrupulous scamp McCoy. In the matter of mail and post office robberies, we think he has done as much, and probably more than any villain who has figured in the criminal line for a long time. The daring and extensive robbery of the mails at East Albany in this State, some months since, was no doubt one of his operations, as he was known to have been in the immediate vicinity about the time of the robberies in company with certain congenial companions, recent unrepented graduates of the penitentiary.

The public will be safe from the crimes of this desperado for at least twenty years, the term of his sentence.

NEWSPAPER BLOCKADE.—It appears that "Jeff," not having any formidable force on the water, with which to meet the blockading squadron of the mother government, proposes a paper blockade of the Northern press. His new postal tariff fixes the postage on "local newspapers" per year, at 40 cents. Daily do, at \$2.80. Daily newspapers published outside the limits of the "Confederate States," \$5.60.

The postage for a daily paper as established by the government (Uncle Sam's), is \$1.56 cents. Difference between Northern and Southern yearly tax on a daily paper, \$4.04 cents!

Hon. Joseph Holt.

The U. S. Government and all its loyal citizens, and especially our large army of post office officials, have abundant reason to feel proud of the able statesman and devoted patriot whose name heads this article. As the Chief of the Post Office Department, and subsequently as Secretary of War at the most critical period in the history of our present national embarrassment, Mr. Holt established an imperishable name as a true, consistent and fearless auxiliary in the administration of the nation's affairs—a name which during the early days of the great rebellion, was upon the enthusiastic lips of millions, without respect to sections or parties.

The developments of the grand dis-Union plot has detracted not a whit from the patriotic ardor and boldness of this eloquent champion of freedom, as clearly appears from his recent letter to the Louisville Journal. Mr. Holt is a Kentuckian, and has a right to advise the people of his native State upon matters relating to their honor and interests.

We give below the closing portion of this truly thrilling and well-timed appeal to old Kentucky:—

Before proceeding further, Kentucky should measure well the depth of the gulf she is approaching, and look well to the feet of her guides. Before forsaking a Union in which her people have enjoyed such uninterrupted and such boundless prosperity, she should ask herself, not once, but many times, why do I go, and where am I going! In view of what has been said, it would be difficult to answer the first branch of the inquiry; but to answer the second part is patent to all, as are the consequences which would follow this movement. In giving her great material and moral resources to the support of the Southern Confederacy, Kentucky might prolong the desolating struggle that rebellious States are making to overthrow a government which they have only known in its blessings; but the triumph of the government would nevertheless be certain in the end. She would abandon a government strong and able to protect her for one that is weak and that contains, in the very elements of its life, the seeds of its destruction. She would adopt, as the law of her existence, the right of secession—a right which has no foundation in jurisprudence, or logic, or in our political history; which Madison, the father of the federal constitution denounced; which has been denounced by most of the states and prominent statesmen now insisting upon its exercise; which, in introducing a principle of indefinite disintegration, cuts up all confederate governments by the roots, and gives them over a prey to the caprices, and passions, and transient interests of their members, as autumnal leaves are given to the winds which blow upon them.

Kentucky, occupying a central position in the Union, is now protected from the scourge of foreign war, however much its ravages may waste the towns and cities upon our coasts or the commerce upon our seas; but as a member of the Southern Confederacy, she would be a frontier state, and necessarily the victim of those border feuds and conflicts which have become proverbial to history alike for their fierceness and frequency. The people of the South now sleep quietly in their beds, and are not even troubled by the infatuated and misguided Virginia, that is not filled with the alarms, and oppressed by the terrors of war. In the face of this ancient commonwealth, dragged to the altar of sacrifice by those who should have stood between her bosom and every foe, Kentucky may read her own. No wonder, therefore, that she has been so coaxingly brought to unite her fortunes with those of the South, and to lay down the bodies of her chivalric sons as a breastwork, behind which the Southern people may be sheltered. Even as attached to the Southern Confederacy she would be weak for all the purposes of self-protection as compared with her present position. But amid the nations, and in a world such a helpless and self-disintegrating league, Kentucky would soon find herself adhering to a mere fragment of the Confederacy, or it may be standing entirely alone, in the presence of others of free states with populations exceeding by many millions her own. Feeble states thus separated from powerful and warlike neighbors by ideal boundaries, or by rivers easily traversed as rivulets, are insects that feed on the lions lip—liable at every moment to be crushed. The recorded doom of multitudes of such has left us a warning too solemn and impressive to be disregarded.

Kentucky in her soul abhors the African slave trade, and turns away with unspenakable horror and loathing from the markets of King Dahomey. But although this trade has been temporarily interdicted by the sacred states, it is well understood that this step has been taken as a mere measure of policy for the purpose of impressing the border states, and of conciliating the European powers. The ultimate legalization of this trade, by a republic professing to be based upon African servitude, may easily be certainly as does the conclusion from the premises of a mathematical proposition. It is Kentucky prepared to see the land upon the dial-plate of her civilization rudely thrust back a century, and to stand before the world the confessed champion of the African slave-hunter; is she, with her unshined fame, ready to become a pauper to the rapacity of the African slave trader, who burdens the very winds of the sea with the moans of the wretched captives whose limbs he has loaded with chains, and whose hearts he has broken? I do not, I cannot believe it.

Could my voice reach every dwelling in Kentucky, I would implore its inmates—if they would not have the rivers of their prosperity shrink away, as do dried streams beneath the summer heats—to rouse themselves from their lethargy, and fly to the rescue of their country before it is everlastingly too late. Man should appeal to man, and neighborhood to neighborhood, until the electric fires of patriotism shall flash from heart to heart in one unbroken current throughout the land. It is a time in which the work-shop, the office, the counting-house, and the field, may well be hallowed for the solemn duty that is upon us, for all these will but bring treasure, not for ourselves, but for the spoiler, if this revolution is not arrested. We are all, with our every earthly interest, embarked in mid-ocean on the same common deck. The howl of the storm is in our ears, and "the lightning's red glare is a pinting hell on the sky," and while the noble ship pitches and rolls under the lashings of the waves, the cry is heard that she has sprung a leak at many points, and that the rushing waters are mounting rapidly in the hold. The man who, in such an hour, will not work at the pumps, is either a maniac or a monster.

CALIFORNIA MAILS.—Mails for California, Oregon, Washington Territory and the Sandwich Islands are made up daily (Sundays excepted) at the New York Post Office, closing at 5.30 A. M. and 3.30 P. M., and forwarded by overland mail via St. Joseph, Mo., the service having been resumed on this route on the 1st of July.

Mails for the South Pacific and Central America, will be dispatched by steamer as heretofore on the 1st, 11th and 21st of each month, mail closing at 10.30 A. M.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1861.

No. 11.

Harrowfork Post Office.

[CONTINUED.]

Then the old question of post master was again revived, and the whole ground gone over again; the contest becoming more personal and desperate than before, and the files of the Department teeming with all sorts of exaggerated petitions and violent remonstrances. The appointing power was made the victim of every kind of imposition and abuse.

In the meanwhile the new member exercised that letter part of valor called discretion. Popularly rendered him good-natured and conservative; and he lost no time in effecting a reconciliation with the Post Master General, of whom he had so rashly complained. Already, on the other hand he had written to his constituents describing the embarrassment of his situation, and requesting as a particular favor that he might for a brief period at least be excused from any personal interference with the post office quarrel.

This unexpected communication somewhat disappointed the enemies of Blake. John Harmon, in particular, was highly exasperated, having previously obtained a promise from Ames that, in case of his election, he would use his influence to have Blake removed.

The antagonistic parties were accordingly left to settle their difficulties as best they could. The battle raged furiously. Fresh petitions, remonstrances, affidavits and accusations were volleyed at the Department; and at length a special bearer of dispatches was delegated to Washington, to support the charges against Blake, and demand of the Post Master General his reasons for declining immediate action in so plain a case.

Now, the person selected for this important mission was no other than our old acquaintance, Mr. John Harmon. He was intrusted with the business for several excellent reasons. In the first place, he was a ready and vehement talker. Secondly, he was an enthusiast on the post office question, and a bitter opponent of the Blake faction. Thirdly, he understood human nature, and knew how to manage Ames. Fourthly, and chiefly, he was the author of the most serious charge against Blake. He had a short time before posted a letter containing a twenty dollar bank note, at the Harrowfork post office. This letter never reached its destination. Now, Blake knew there was money in that letter; and it could be proved that, not long after its miscarriage, just such a bank note as the one contained was passed by the postmaster, under suspicious circumstances.

This charge was on file among the papers of the Department; and it was thought that Harmon was the most suitable person to agitate the subject.

Mr. John Harmon made a comfortable journey, and arrived at the seat of Government in due season. His first business was to secure lodgings suited to the high character of a delegate from Harrowfork. Big Washington was crowded with visitors, and the hotels were filled. Mr. John Harmon was chagrined. He leaned his chin upon his hand, and his elbow upon the counter of the "National." Mr. John Harmon ruminated.

"I don't see but what me'n you'll huf to go halves, and turn in together," said a voice at his elbow.

Mr. John Harmon looked up. A stranger of tall figure, prominent cheek-bones, sallow complexion, dressed in a very new and very stiff suit of clothes, smiled upon him in a decidedly friendly manner.

"There's jest one room, the landlord says't we can have 'em on a pinch," continued the speaker. "It's up pooty high, and an' a very sizable room, at that. I've got the first offer on't, but I won't mind makin' a team'th you, if you're a mind to hitch on, and make the best on't. What d'ye say?"

Mr. John Harmon said he supposed he would accept his new friend's proposal. But at the same time he hinted to the clerk at the desk that he was from the Hon. Mr. Ames' District.

"If you were the President, himself, we could not do any better by you, under the circumstances," said the clerk.

This assurance served to soothe John Harmon's injured feelings, and he retired to the room in the top of the house, with his new acquaintance.

"Come down on Gov'tment business, I s'pose likely?" suggested the latter.

"Yes," replied John Harmon, "on post-office business."

"I want to know! Glad we fell in," cried the stranger. "I came down on some such business myself."

"Indeed!" said John Harmon. "You are going to call on the Post Master General, then?"

"Look here: you!" said he, "where abouts does a chap go to find the Dead Letter?"

"This way," replied the polite messenger.

The visitors were shown to the left, through the lower main hall of the Department; then turning into another passage, the messenger pointed out the last door on the right, as the one they were in search of.

"Thank ye," said Mr. Wilcox. "I'll do as much for you some time. May as well bolt right in, I suppose?" he added, consulting his companion.

John Harmon said "certainly," and the next moment the two found themselves in the midst of the clerks of that important Bureau. Mr. Forrester Wilcox singled out one of the most approachable of them, and addressed him on the subject of the hundred dollar letter.

"I have no recollection of any such letter," said the clerk. However, for the visitor's satisfaction, he examined the list of returned money letters, for the last quarter. John Harmon, interested for his friend Wilcox, also ran his eye over the list.

"It's not here," said the clerk; "but you may rest assured, that in case it is at any time discovered, it will find its way back to you in safety."

He was about to dismiss the visitors, but John Harmon coughed; John Harmon looked very red. John Harmon was perspiring profusely. The truth is, among the last letters on the list, he found recorded the identical one, containing the twenty dollar bank note, which Blake was charged with purloining! What to do in the matter, John Harmon was at a loss to know. After some hesitation, however, he asked permission to glance once more at the list. He was accommodated, and presently his finger rested on the important entry.

"I declare," said he, "if there ain't a letter I mailed at Harrowfork! I had no idea in finding it here! Can I get it now by proving property?"

"It has already been returned to your address," answered the clerk, on learning the circumstances. "You will find it on your return to Harrowfork. It miscarried in consequence of a mistake in the superscription."

"Are you sure it has been sent," inquired John Harmon.

The clerk was quite sure, and John Harmon instantly withdrew.

"So there's one of your charges agin Blake knocked overboard," suggested Wilcox. "He'll be a little grain tickled to see that 'ere letter come back, I s'pect!"

"No person," answered Harmon, magnanimously, "no person in the world can be more rejoiced than I am, that Blake is proved innocent of the charge."

Wilcox replied that he was very glad to hear it; and so they parted to meet again at dinner. Whether John Harmon was so greatly rejoiced at the proof of Blake's innocence, will be seen in the sequel.

While the Down Easter went to see the Hon. our delegate feared his way to the apartment of the Post Master General, and inquired for that officer in a manner which said very plainly, "I am John Harmon, of Harrowfork; and I guess now we'll have that little post-office affair settled."

Unfortunately—or rather fortunately for his own piece of mind, at least, the Post Master General was engaged that morning at Cabinet meeting at the White House, and John Harmon was referred to the First Assistant, who listened patiently to his statement. Our delegate had a speech prepared for the occasion, which he now declaimed in a very high tone of voice, with a swaggering accent, sharply twanged off, as Sir Toby Belch would have said, and with vehement and abundant gestures.

"I am instructed by my constituents," he said, in conclusion, "to demand of the Department satisfactory reasons for the delay and procrastination to which we have been obliged tamely to submit."

"You should consider," politely returned the Assistant, "that Harrowfork numbers only one among some twenty-four thousand post offices in the Union; and that it is a little unreasonable to expect us to bear in mind all the details of an occasional and not uncommon case. We will attend to your business, however, directly."

The Assistant spoke with seriousness and candor. John Harmon was thunderstruck.

"Just you take a look at that letter!" said he, through his closed teeth. "I want to see it over Ames' own list, before I believe it! When we promised our support for his election, he agreed to carry out our wishes in regard to the post office, at all hazards! If he has dared to turn traitor!" muttered John Harmon, revengefully.

The letter is entirely of a private nature," said the Assistant, "but it is a duty to our wishes to keep any communications secret, that are designed to influence our public acts; and owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case, I am willing to show you the letter, on condition, however, that its contents shall not be divulged outside the Department."

John Harmon, leaning to see upon the evidence of Ames' treachery, assented, although reluctantly; and the official explored the wilderness of papers for the document in question. "Here it is," said he, "glancing at the endorsement—"this is a communication with regard to a letter of your own, containing a twenty dollar note, which Blake is charged with purloining. How is it about that? any thing new?"

"Well,—no,—hem!" coughed John Harmon. After discovering the proof of Blake's innocence in the Dead Letter Office, he rather hoped the subject would not be mentioned; but he was too much absorbed in looking after Ames' honesty, to take very good care of his own. "The matter—hem—(John's throat was quite rusty)—stands about as it did."

"You have no positive proof of the charge, then?"

"No,—well,—that is, not what would be called legal proof, I suppose. The circumstances were very strong against Blake at the time, but being all in the neighborhood nobody liked to prosecute. For my part," said John Harmon, "I'd rather suffer wrong than do wrong, and I preferred to lose the twenty dollars, to injuring Blake's private character."

The Assistant made a commendatory remark touching this generous sentiment, and passed over the letter. John Harmon wiped the perspiration from his brow, and felt relieved. Whether he was ashamed to confess his own gross carelessness in the matter, and the injustice of his charge, or whether—acting on the principle of doing evil that good might come from it, he determined to make the most of every point established against Blake, without regard to truth—does not plainly appear. We leave the affair to his own conscience.

The Assistant meanwhile drew Ames' letter out of the "bag." In his eagerness to grasp it, John Harmon dropped it upon the floor. As he stooped to take it up, his eye caught a glimpse of a visitor who had just entered. John Harmon looked at the visitor, the visitor looked at John Harmon. John Harmon looked first red, then white; the visitor looked very white, then very red.

The delegate was the first to resume his usual composure.

"Well, friend Ames, how do you do?" said he, adroitly shifting the letter from his right hand to the left, and giving the former to the "Honorable" member.

"Very well! Capital!" replied Ames nervously. "What's the news?"

"Nothing particular," said John Harmon, with a grin, while sliding the letter into his hat. "Fine weather—Good deal of company at Washington, I find."

"O yes, considerable!" Ames rubbed his hands, and tried to appear at ease. "I am glad to see you here. You must go up to the House with me. How are all the folks at home? How's Harrowfork now-a-days?"

John Harmon answered these questions evasively.

At the same time, the Assistant's countenance betrayed an inward appreciation of unspeakable fun. The member's face grew redder still, and still more red. The truth is, he had that morning received a note from Blake warning him of Harrowfork's journey to the Capital, and had just left his seat in the House, hastening to the Department, to secure the fatal letter before it betrayed his treachery.

As we have seen, he was just too late.

The Assistant took pleasure in seating the two visitors side by side upon the same sofa, and allowed them to entertain each other. But the conversation was forced, unnatural, embarrassing. At length Ames, resolved upon knowing the worst, plunged desperately into the all-important subject.

"I suppose," said he, "you don't entirely get over the excitement at home about the post-office?"

"No, we don't," replied John Harmon, significantly; "and that ain't the worst of it." He bent over the end of the sofa, and deliberately, with the grimmest sort of smile, drew from his hat the Honorable member's private note.

"And, somehow, it don't strike me," he added, glancing his eye over its contents, "that this letter of yours is going to lessen the excitement very materially. I suppose you know that hand-writing?"

He thrust the letter into the Honorable member's face. The Honorable member's face flushed more fiery than before. He stammered, he smiled, he rubbed his handkerchief in his hands, and upon his brow.

"My dear Harmon," said he, blandly, "I see you don't fully understand this business."

"I'm sure I don't," cried John Harmon; "and I'd like to find the best man who does; Didn't you pledge yourself to use your influence if elected, to have Blake removed?"

"Don't speak so loud!" whispered the honorable member, who didn't at all fancy the humorous smile in the Assistant's face. "It's all right I assure you. But this isn't exactly the place to talk over the affair. Come with me to my lodgings, and we'll discuss the matter."

Not averse to discussion, John Harmon consented to the proposal.

"I beg your pardon," said the Assistant Post Master General, "but that paper—I cannot put that to be removed."

It was the fatal letter. John Harmon wanted it; the Honorable member wanted it still more; but the Assistant insisted, and the document was left behind.

Now, the Honorable member was in what is commonly termed a "fix." Like too many such politicians, who, nevertheless, as Mark Anthony

their four sons and two daughters—and beheld the scene of domestic contentment, we were sad at heart to think that among them was one whose misconduct was to bring disgrace and wretchedness upon himself, and misery upon them, and we would gladly have committed to other hands the dénouement which it was our unavoidable duty to bring about.

The meal finished a private interview with the father was obtained, and the object of our unexpected visit made known in as delicate a manner as possible. It was necessary to inform the old man that his son was suspected on good grounds of the commission of a crime which, if proved against him, would send him to the State prison.

That an end like this should come to the hopes and expectations which he had cherished for the future of his boy was too much for the father to bear. He had fondly thought that although other young men had yielded to the temptations of city life, his child was too strongly fortified by the instructions he had received, and the principles inculcated upon him at home to fall like them. But now this greatest of evils had come upon him, and overpowered by his feelings, he could only add his entreaties to those of his aged partner, that mercy might be shown to the erring one. But amid appeals like these, and suppressed sobs from the distressed family, he was arrested and taken away to undergo a legal examination, which resulted in holding him for trial.

This is only another illustration of the old, old truth so hard to learn, and so easy to forget—that of "sorrow dogging sin." We have recorded this case, not on account of any special novelty in its incidents—far, unfortunately, too many instances are occurring every day of the ruin and wretchedness which one criminal may spread around him—but that we may do our share as well wishers to the often sorely tempted youth, in giving them such admonitions and warnings drawn from our official observations, as may have an influence in deterring some at least from following the way of transgressors, which is sure to become hard in the end, however easy and agreeable it may be at the outset.

A BRUSH WITH THE CANADIAN OFFICIALS.—It appears that in making up the mail pouch for Kingston, Canada, recently, a *Just brush* used by the porters in the New York office, by some accident got among the contents of the aforesaid bag, and made the passage safely to Kingston. The appearance of so unusual a visitor, in so strange a place, no doubt caused not a little surprise and conjecture, and finally excited the poetic genius of some of the officials, who returned the innocent intruder by the next mail, with the following lines posted upon its back:

Post Office, Kingston, C. W.
Whether this stranger hither came,
As friend or foe, no matter—
I hope he may reach home again,
Altho' wiser if not better
Our whiskered friend, pray don't abuse,
He acted like a sage,
Surrounded by the whole world's news,
Yet never read a page
Nor yet in confidence disclosed,
His name, nor his profession;
Nor how his mind has felt disposed,
To Union or Secession
While sultry Summer's heat intense,
Makes city life a toil,
He came disguised without pretence,
And stood on British soil,
And fairly meath Britain's glorious throne,
He longer would sojourn,
His country needs her subjects now,
And so he must return
J. H. S.

To this the following reply was returned from the New York office:—
Your lines on the brush we received in due time,
And we found a new style for all future epistles.
One side of the paper was covered with rhyme,
And the other overgrown with a thicket of bristles.
If the brush had been longer, we might well presume,
That a poem of similar length you'd have sent us—
So the next time we try, we will forward a broom,
For no lyric that's shorter than that will content us.

Letter Addresses.
If NEW YORK STATE has not succeeded,
And ceased the mails to stop,
Then Uncle Sam must take this note,
To H. N. MILLER's run shop.
O'er hill and dale your course pursue,
Till Miss L. Foster you come "tew!"
In GREENFIELD, Massachusetts she doth live,
And is expecting this letter to arrive!

To
GREENFIELD, MASS
P. M. Please give this letter to the man what's got a son in my barn as wants to get away
JOHN PRIBSCOTT
MARSHFIELD, N. H.
Mr. Postmaster, if my brother John is dead or moved away, please forward this to him at once.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Postmaster. NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1861.

THREE—The dollar per year payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Important instructions.

The introduction of new styles of government envelopes and postage stamps, has rendered new instructions to postmasters necessary, respecting the disposition of such of the old issues as remain on hand.

These instructions require, that as soon as a supply of the new stamps or envelopes are received by a postmaster, he is to give immediate notice through the newspapers and otherwise, that he is prepared to exchange them for an equal amount of the old issue, during a period of six days from the date of the notice, and that after the expiration of the six days, the old stamps and envelopes will not be received in payment of postage on letters sent from his office.

When these reasons to believe that quantities of the stamps or envelopes so offered for exchange, have been sent from any of the disloyal States, they are not to be received without due investigation. The Circular referred to, which is from the Finance Office of the Department, further instructs postmasters as follows:

Immediately after the expiration of the above period of six days you will return to the Third Assistant Postmaster General all stamped envelopes of the old style in your possession, including such as you may obtain by exchange, paying them in a secure package, which must be carefully registered in the manner prescribed by Chapter 10 of the Regulations of this Department.

The return of a letter legibly the name of your office, and the name of your County and State.

A postmaster in compliance with foregoing instructions is to be particularly careful, that you may not fail to obtain the return of all stamps or envelopes retained.

In the event of finding the old envelopes to the Department, you can, if convenient, exchange them for new ones at your nearest post office, where usage applies are to be used.

It being impossible to supply all offices with the new envelopes at once, you will deliver letters received from Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, all the States, and other parts of the old States, until the 1st of September, and from the Territory of New Mexico, Utah and Washington, until the 1st of October, 1861.

Rail Roads and the Mail Service.

For some purposes, the pecuniary value of time is no greater than it ever was. A crop of corn, for example, is as long in maturing, under similar conditions of soil, weather and the like, as it was when Indian women were the farmers who in this country could least be said to be interested in the affairs of all that were to be done under the control of man, such as commerce and various other social interests. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, it was with ten of fifty years ago. The development in which we have probably stated at a minimum, the result, in a great measure, of the improvements in means of communication which have been made principally within the last half century. In this country the difference between the rate and post-convective era, is more than in England, in consequence of the superiority of the common roads, and of the hot summer of public travel in that country. Their lines stretch generally at an average of about ten miles an hour, while here, as was the case which the most ambitious of stage drivers attempted to reach, and the average speed was probably not more than half the rate accomplished on the English highways. The attainment of a velocity of twenty to thirty miles an hour, makes time proportionally far more valuable, and the effect of the rapid modes of conveyance which the power of steam has rendered possible, is nowhere more forcibly displayed than in the facilities thus furnished for the transmission of intelligence through the mails. Without railroads, our daily press could never have reached its present dimensions, nor have become such an important element in the life of the whole people. A day only now intervenes between the publication of a paper and its reception four or five hundred miles away—a distance which, thirty years ago, could not have been traversed by any ordinary conveyance in less than three or four days, and that not without much uncertainty and irregularity. Such slow means of transmission would greatly limit the range of the circulation of a daily paper whose great attraction is its freshness, and now that the telegraph is continually transmitting at least the outlines of current events, the newspaper would be thrown into the back ground more than ever before, if it could not keep within a few hours of its rival.

The net work of rail roads which now intersects the country not only diminishes the distance in time between different places, but secures a more frequent inter-communication. Country towns which formerly received a mail only once or twice a week now have this privilege daily, and even twice a day. These facilities, aided by the present moderate rates of postage, have awakened a wonderful activity in the production of both written and printed mail matter, and have consequently become of vast importance to the Post Office Department. Yet since the Department is willing to pay in

proportion to the increased value of the service, it is under no particular obligations to railroad corporations on account of the benefits it receives from them. The remuneration which these corporations receive from this source make no small item in their dividends, some of them receiving as much as \$350 per mile per annum, the lowest rate being \$50 per mile. Now and then the Department and the railroad officers disagree about terms, and the latter threaten to throw off the mails entirely, but the press and public opinion generally control the matter, and after pouting a while, they go on again till a more greedy set of officers get control, when the old plan for more pay is again heard. Congress, however, has placed the maximum at \$350 per mile. The aggregate amount paid the rail roads annually for this service is enormous, and they cannot justly complain that they do not receive a quid pro quo.

The Trouble Explained.

The late detection and arrest of George F. Hotchkiss, clerk in the post office at New Haven, Conn., explains a series of important mail depredations covering a term of several months. The number of letters abstracted and destroyed by this wholesale operator will probably never be known, as complaints are for the most part confined to those containing valuable communications. The number of such has been large, though the aggregate amount of cash and securities does not reach more than a few hundred dollars. Several thousands in notes, drafts, coupons, etc., have been destroyed.

A large majority of the missing letters thus accounted for, and confessed to have been taken by Hotchkiss, were addressed to New York, or were mailed at the latter city directed to citizens of New Haven.

As is usual in such arrests, one of the most gratifying results is the relief afforded these officials through whose hands the rilled letters and packages should have legitimately passed.

Hotchkiss had been connected with the post office but about three months, and had evidently made the most of the facilities that afforded him for converting the property of others to his own use. The larger portion of his ill-gotten gains had been saved, and were recovered by the Agent by whom he was detected. Mr. Sperry, the New Haven postmaster, has done his whole duty in the painful case, and together with his assistants, has been greatly relieved by the discovery of the author of these wholesale depredations.

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worked admirably. It is the words "Second Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, Co. —" printed in large letters on the top of the envelope. It attracts attention at once, facilitates the distribution, and prevents errors.

In connection with this subject, the postmaster of Washington requests us to tender in his behalf and that of his clerks, their thanks to the Postmasters at Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Albany, and other places, for the prompt compliance with a request made at the commencement of the arrival of troops at the capital, to separate the military letters from the ordinary correspondence. It has been found to work admirably, and without this unavoidable confusion and delay would have occurred, in sorting the mails.

Congress has passed an act, authorizing the transmission of letters prepaid, addressed to soldiers, when forwarded from one office to another, without additional postage. This is all the relief afforded them thus far.

It would be a matter of great convenience to the soldiers, their friends and the post offices, if printed envelopes for the use of the army could be furnished thus:

Mr _____ Regiment, _____ Volunteers, _____ Company _____ Washington, D. C.

The New Postage Stamps.

Heretofore all the Government postage stamps have been manufactured at Philadelphia, by Messrs Tappan, Carpenter & Co, who have, it is understood, executed their contract with that degree of promptness and fidelity which was originally guaranteed by the high character and standing of that well-known house. The old contract having expired, proposals were called for by the Postmaster General, for the new one, and it has been awarded to the National Bank Note Company of this city; the leading members of which Co. are Messrs. R. S. Oakley, J. McDonough, W. D. Nichols, G. H. Danforth, Fitch Shepard, and Lloyd Glover.

New dies have been prepared for all the different denominations of stamps; differing somewhat from the old styles, and presenting a marked improvement in coloring—the distinctness of the color of each, and in some other respects. We have no doubt that the public will be well pleased with the new issue. They are now being distributed among postmasters.

The stamps are heretofore to be manufactured in the new substantial fire-proof edifice at the corner of Nassau and Pine streets, known as Duncan and Sherman's building. The machinery is all new, and of the most costly and approved description, and everything is in perfect keeping with the importance and magnitude of the undertaking.

It is calculated that there will be about two hundred million stamps used during the coming year, from Aug. 1st, 1861.

During the year 1860, there were delivered to P. O. Department 223,897,270 stamps, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Denomination and Quantity. Includes One cent (55,979,335), Three cent (105,592,600), Five cent (61,180), Ten cent (4,438,750), Twelve cent (1,016,575), Twenty-four cent (42,540), Thirty cent (179,820), Ninety cent (18,100).

The twenty-four cent stamps were not issued until within the second quarter, and the thirty cent and ninety cent in the third quarter of the year.

The number issued during the two expired quarters of this year, is: 1st quarter, 57,621,599; 2d do, 47,310,959. Ending 1st of July, 1861.

The average increase for a number of years past has been about nineteen millions per annum.

The new stamps differ materially from the old ones in design, and they are uniform, in having the value of the stamp designated in figures in each of the upper corners, and the letters U. S. in the lower corners in addition to U. S. Postage, Three Cents, etc. The one cent stamp represents a profile bust of Franklin, and the three cent a profile bust of Washington. The five cent has the head of Jefferson, the ten, twelve and twenty-four cent, the head of Washington, the thirty cent, the bust of Franklin, and the ninety cent is distinguished by Trumbull's head of Washington.

Col. CORCORAN.—As Col. Corcoran of the 69th Regiment was a clerk in the New York post office, our readers will be surprised to find a lively interest in the following sketch of the nativity and career of that brave officer. It appeared recently in the Irish American of this city:—

Colonel Corcoran is descended from an honorable and patriotic Irish stock, the Colonel claiming direct relationship to the renowned Earl of Lucan, the bravest officer of his day, through his great-grandmother, who was the fourth daughter of William Fitzgerald, of Cloonmore, in the County of Roscommon, and great-granddaughter of the gallant Sarsfield. She married, in 1746, Patrick McDonough.

Thomas Corcoran, the father of the subject of our present sketch, was a retired half-pay officer, who had served in the West Indies for several years. After his retirement to private life, he married Mary McDonough, daughter of Patrick McDonough, Jr., and from this union sprung the subject of this brief memoir.

Colonel Corcoran was born on the 21st of September, 1827, in Carrowkeel, county Sligo, the seat of the McDonoughs to this day. After receiving the benefits of an English education, at the age of 19 he entered the Irish Constabulary establishment, and remained in it three years, during which period he was stationed at Crosslough, in the county Donegal. The locality in which he was born and that in which he was raised were not without their influence on those national feelings which were slumbering in the youth. He resigned his place in August, 1849, and emigrated to America. The position of emigrants, of even the most cultivated nature, need not be illustrated by us in this place. They all have to undergo vicissitudes, which are proverbial. From these, however, it seems, Mr. Corcoran was singularly exempt, owing to his directness of purpose and energy of action.

After some time he entered the employment of Mr. John Hoony, of Hibernian Hall, in this city. On the retirement of Mr. Hoony, Mr. Corcoran succeeded him as proprietor of the establishment, which he held until March of the present year.

The military career of Col. Corcoran in America may be dated from his entrance into the 69th, as a private under our old and esteemed friend, Captain John Judge of Company I, (which has been since, by the way, changed to Company A.) Here the passion which has been so strongly developed was not dormant. He soon was elected Orderly Sergeant, and rose by the voice of his comrades to be successively First Lieutenant and Captain, receiving from the Company, during his upward progress, several substantial testimonials in his fitness and ability in every position.

Capt. Corcoran was a faithful servant of the State in what was called the "Quarantine War," being then Senior Captain of the 95th—and the Inspector General's return says a distinguished tribute to his military character. In this official recognition of his true and modest merit the Inspector said: "What I might say of Capt. Corcoran commanding 'A' Company, as to his military knowledge, would not add to his already well-known reputation as the best, if not the very best officer of his rank in the First Division." This was high praise, and circumstances since, recently, show that it reflects not less credit on the officer who conferred than on him who received it.

Captain Corcoran was elected to fill the vacant Colony of the 69th, August 25th, 1859. Since that date his name has been synonymous with the designation of the regiment. It was especially brought forward on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales to New York. The strength of which is one of the attributes of genuine modesty, Col. Corcoran, declined to parade the Irish-born citizens whom he commanded to do honor to the son of the sovereign under whose rule the best men raised in Ireland for half a century were banished. He was consistent with the history of the hero from whom he sprung, and the traditions of the shilcock cups he represented. It is unnecessary here to go into the details of this affair. It may suffice to say that, outside of all diplomatic courtesy or exhibition of sham feeling, events both in this country and in England go to sustain the honest uprightness of Col. Corcoran's motives, as well as the necessity for his action at that special time. His trial and defence are now matters of pride, not only among the hundreds of thousands of his adopted fellow-citizens, but in the hearts of the people of Ireland. Nor was it overlooked when a necessity arose for a display of the American fealty of his gallant regiment; and here let us remark that Colonel Corcoran's action at the time was singularly devoid of personal feeling. Many of the officers of the 69th were doubtful of the propriety of turning out while their Colonel was undergoing a court-martial, for what they thought and felt to be an act which they completely justified. Immediately Col. Corcoran in a letter (published in the Tribune), implored them not to take him into any account, but to stand by the Flag of the Union and the sacred principles involved in its sustenance. The result is known. The court-martial was quashed, the 69th entered for the war, and the eyes of the entire people have been centered on its side.

In the progress of the arduous and honorable labors which have been assigned to his command, Col. Corcoran has won the esteem of the heads of the War Department, and the enthusiastic applause of the United States officers with whom he has cooperated. As the bulwark and *avant garde* of the Brigade having in special charge the defence of the principal entrance from Virginia into the Capital of the United States, Col. Corcoran's command has won enduring honors. Their fortifications will remain a lasting monument of their zeal and patriotism, and by his designation, "Fort Corcoran," a name conferred by the War Department, not less than by the watchful promptitude and military decision of him after whom it was called, will carry the name of Col. Corcoran into the imperishable chronicles of his adopted country.

The New York Post Office will be found strongly represented. At the head of the catalogue stands the name of the glorious Corcoran, the brave Colonel of the Sixty-Ninth Regiment, who was at the time of entering the army, a clerk in the Registry department. As stated in another paragraph, he left his official post but a few days before he led forth his noble regiment to the defence of the capital. It is indeed a sad thought that after establishing such an enviable reputation for bravery, and devotion to the cause of his adopted country, he should be left to the tender (?) mercies of the Secessionists, at Manassas. If it could only be known that they have been kind to the noble fellow, that fact would do much to assuage the feeling of grief so universally caused by his absence and possible loss.

The Old Dutch Church Post Office contributed to the New York regiments as follows:

- MICHAEL CORCORAN, Colonel 69th Regiment Ebenezer J. Hyde, 7th Regiment. S. M. Kellinger " " Beverly Clark, 71st " Henry Liebman, Jr., 71st " George Greene, " " George Young, 8th " Thomas Story, " " Charles Wolf, 12th " James Mandeville, " " Thomas McGowan, 69th " John C. Mackey, " " George Zinko, 5th " All have survived their perils, although the fate of Col. Corcoran is still uncertain.

Beverly Clark was wounded in the arm in the engagement at Bull Run. His life was no doubt saved by a metallic match box in his vest pocket at the time, the ball after passing through the flesh of the left arm, striking the box and glancing off.

George Greene, of the 71st, was wounded in both arms, and is said to be a prisoner at Manassas.

George Young, was post-master of the 8th Regiment, and Thomas McGowan held the same position in the 69th, with John C. Mackey, as-

sistant. The latter was absent in Washington after the regiment's letters, the day of the great battle, and to this circumstance his safety may be attributable. Alas! many of the letters obtained that day for his brave comrades of the 69th, will have to be returned to their distressed writers, unopened, or sent through the dead letter office.

SUSPENSION OF THE MAIL SERVICE IN THE REBEL STATES.—The Post Master General recently communicated to Congress the following special report on the subject of the discontinuance of the mail service in the rebel States:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, July 12, 1861.

The act of Congress in relation to the postal service, approved February 28, 1861, provides that whenever, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, the postal service cannot be safely continued, or the Post Office revenue collected, or the postal laws maintained on any post route, by reason of any cause whatever, the Postmaster General is hereby authorized to discontinue the postal service on such route or any part thereof, and any post offices thereon, till the same can be safely restored, and shall report this action to Congress. In compliance with this act, and because of the obstruction of the service by the insurgents, I directed it to be discontinued on the 27th of May, by an order herewith communicated, in the so-called rebel States, except in Western Virginia; and have since directed its discontinuance in West and Middle Tennessee. The events which have rendered this course necessary are so well known as to render any explanation of my action unnecessary. It seems, indeed, more to be required that I should explain why I suffered the service to continue so long in those States. The chief reason for this was that the mails alone afforded the means of diffusing any correct information among the people of the South, and disabusing their minds of the prevalent errors which the conspirators had availed themselves of to organize the insurrection. It felt assured that the expressions of public sentiment which would be evoked on the first act of war, if allowed to reach the people of the South, would go far to break down the conspiracy. The postal service afforded the best means to communicate to the people of the South the judgment which I was confident the civilized world would pronounce against the rebellion, when its real purpose was distinctly seen; and although I knew that the instruments of the revolutionary despotism temporarily established there were doing everything in their power to suppress all correct information, it was nevertheless apparent that information of the most important character was disseminated through the mails. Actuated by such views, I was not only disposed to continue the service in existence when I came into office, but even to restore it where it had been discontinued by my predecessor; and for this purpose, at an early day, I sent a special agent to the South, to establish the principal offices which had been discontinued. But the insurrectionary leaders comprehending, I believe, as I did the effect of the mails upon their power, refused them to allow those offices to be re-established, and more recently have excluded the mails for all portions of the country in which their military power is established. While the military despotism which was organized in secret clubs by the conspirators is suffered to dominate over the people of the South, there is no means of ascertaining whether the policy I have pursued has been advantageous or not. But I have no doubt that the people of the South will vindicate it and themselves the first moment that they are liberated from the cruel despotism which now prevails. The discontinued service, as appears by a detailed statement herewith submitted, cost the government \$3,096,427 24 over and above the receipts therefrom.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

MAIL LOCKS.—The proposals for supplying the P. O. Department with new locks and keys, appear to have given a fresh impetus to the inventive genius of the age. The competition has been unusually brisk, as will appear when it is stated that not less than two hundred and eighty-three samples of locks were offered for inspection, many of them of the most ingenious and original descriptions. The successful competitor has not yet been named.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT ENVELOPES.—G. N. Nibbit, Esq., the contractor for the envelopes, is prepared to furnish the new styles and denominations recently ordered by the Post Master General. In addition to the postage rates heretofore in use, the following have been added: 12, 20, 24 and 40 cents. The dies and the colors of the stamps have been materially changed, and we doubt not the new articles will be considered a decided improvement on the envelopes before supplied.

A list of the prices at which the envelopes are sold, appears in another column.

By chopping off the mail service in the disaffected Southern States, Uncle Sam clears the handsome sum of over three million, one hundred thousand dollars per annum. The South must either advance this large sum to pay their postmasters, and contractors, or they must lose, to a great extent, the inestimable benefits of a well regulated post office system. The cost of the services in that section was about \$4,000,000, and the receipts from postages only about \$900,000.

SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—In conformity with a recent Act of Congress, the Post Master General instructs postmasters to demand no extra postage upon letters addressed to officers and soldiers enlisted in the army, when such letters are forwarded from one point to another, owing to a change of locality of the parties addressed. When originally mailed, however, these letters are subject to prepayment of postage, the same as other correspondence, unless they are legally franked.

Col. CORCORAN.—The gallantry of this patriot and soldier, is still further enhanced by the fact that he actually left a sick chamber, when he led his Regiment to Washington. He had been suffering from an attack of the pleurisy, for nearly two months, and had been at his desk in the registry room in the New York post office, but two days at the time of assuming his command of the noble 69th.

HEAVY POSTAGE.—A package destined for Hartford, Conn., arrived at the New York post office by the last European steamer, the postage upon which amounted to seventy-four dollars and four cents. It was prepaid by English postage stamps.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. 1.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1861.

No. 12.

Temptation Resisted.

Many a man can recall to mind a point in the experience of his youth at which the moral character of his after life received its permanent direction either toward good or evil—when the dream of Hercules became reality to him, and he was called upon to decide between the allurements of Vice and the uncompromising requirements of Virtue. Happy is he to whom the good angel, in whatever shape, appears at such a crisis, to strengthen his wavering resolution, and to save him from ruin.

An interesting example of the successful endurance of such an ordeal has lately come to our knowledge, which we record for the encouragement of any young man or woman who may be balancing between good and evil. A worthy clerk in one of our city post offices tells us that soon after he had entered the service, happening one day to be alone in his part of the office, a gentleman called at the window and handed him a letter for the far West, remarking at the same time that it contained fifty dollars. The mail was about to be made up, and after stamping the letter, the clerk threw it in among those which were partially prepared for mailing. The thought now occurred to him that he could appropriate it with little or no risk. He had but little time for reflection, as the clerk would soon arrive who was to make up the mail, so he seized the letter and put it in his pocket, that it might not be out of his reach should he conclude to become a thief. It was some time before he had an opportunity to leave the office, and to take the final step of breaking open the letter. During this interval he began a tempest in his soul. His father had died not long before, leaving behind him an untarnished reputation, and having inculcated upon his only son both by precept and example the principles of honesty and truthfulness. The memory of this father was the first obstacle to the commission of a crime which, if discovered, would bring disgrace upon a name as yet unsullied. But this was not all. The heart and the hopes of a widowed mother were bound up in her child, and the thought of her sad face pleaded with him not to add a deeper shade to that sadness, nor to render her home utterly desolate. The Sunday-school, too, rose up to reproach him for his intended villainy. He was a teacher, and how could he face the innocent gaze of his pupils, and speak to them of moral and religious truth, while his own soul was stained with crime?

But the force of these reflections was broken by the thought that detection was next to impossible, and that the crime was not so great a one after all. The person who sent the money could afford to lose it, and it was no matter if such a tight old hunk was made to "shell out" for once in his life.

Thus reasoning, the young man was about to break the seal of the letter and appropriate its contents, when a rap was heard at the box-window of which he had charge. A bright-eyed little girl, some twelve years old, asked for box No. —. Two letters were handed her, and she went away, but in a few minutes she again appeared at the window. "Please sir, one of these letters is not for father, and he told me to bring it right back. I'm sure I would not keep it for the world," and with a pleasant smile, she handed him the letter and retired. It had been boxed up wrong, and he rectified the mistake. He recognized the little girl as a member of his Sunday-school class, and the lesson in virtue which she had thus unwittingly taught, showed him as he had never seen it before, the enormity of his half-accomplished crime. The pupil and teacher changed places for the time being, and he felt that no instruction which he had ever given her could possibly equal in value that which he had received from her timely visit. His virtue, just about to yield, received a new impulse; his letter feeling revived. The letter which had so nearly proved his ruin, was inclosed in a wrapper and dropped into the first mail-bag which left the office, and to use his own words, "Never, since this terrible conflict, has any one of the many valuable letters which have passed through my hands been any temptation to me, and I attribute my rescue from ruin to the visit of my little friend, who was not a moment too soon. Five minutes later might have found me a thief and a ruined man."

May the tribe of such "misleading spirits" increase. There is need enough of them everywhere.

OLD LETTERS.—We copy the following from the *Norwich, N. Y. Telegraph*:

The boys in the Oxford post office, under the idea that it would be a good joke on "Brad" Wilcox, of the Norwich post office, sent up to him on Saturday an old mail bag, that, years ago, was used by a horseback carrier. On opening it, and making a thorough search for "contraband" articles, two letters were found sticking in the corners. They had been overlooked when the bag was last used. One was directed to "Miss Olivia Hayes, Mt. Upton," mailed at Smithville Flatts, Oct. 1, 1853. The other was directed to Zebulon N. Burch, East Guilford, mailed at Canajoharie, Sept. 29, 1853, and there was due upon it for postage, five cents. These letters may be of value, and, if so, the "joke" may prove a pleasant one to those who own them. They have been forwarded to the proper office.

Early Posts, Etc.

In the thirteenth century, the first and greatest University of Europe was in Paris. In that city, students were collected from all parts of the continent. The exigencies of so large a number of men—it is said of several thousands—could not be answered by the accidental lines of communication of traveling or commercial agents. A mail was used to carry letters to and from the house of each student. They therefore employed couriers to carry them and return answers. It was a slow process in that age of the world, scarcely more than three hundred years ago. The courier was continued till the year 1709, when the whole thing seems to have been abandoned. Something similar to this existed in the English University as late as two centuries ago. It seems therefore that as long ago as three hundred years, there was a kind of mail, by which messages could be sent to absent friends. But if we go back to ancient times, even when civilization had risen to its highest point in Athens and Rome, we can find nothing like a modern post office. The highest and praiseworthy days were, perhaps, those of the New Testament Scriptures. Rome was then the Empire of the world. But the Apostles and the teachers of Christianity were not accommodated with a post office. In all the apostolic epistles, we find allusion made to the messenger, by whom the letter was sent. Thus in the 2d epistle to the Corinthians, the letter to the church seems to have been sent by Titus, and another who is not named, but a friend of the Apostle, and whom he says is in praise in all the churches. And in all the Apostolic letters we find that particular messengers were sent to carry the Epistles which were written to the brethren. Nothing like a modern post office was known in ancient times.

Some seem to regard the mail as intended for business men only—that it is simply a matter of dollars and cents only. But if we reflect on the subject, we shall see that the human affections have a deep and a thrilling interest in this matter. In one of the small villages in New England, for example, is a mother whose sons and daughters, having arrived at an age when they need no longer a mother's care, are scattered over the country, far from home, and far from each other. What a bond of union is the facility with which they can communicate with each other. A daughter, living, it may be, far off in the woods of Iowa, takes a few moments from her household duties—writes a few lines on a piece of paper, folds and encloses it in an envelope, directs it to the mother whom she fondly loves, and residing in the old homestead, has daily prayed for the safety and the happiness of the loved and absent ones. This letter is dropped into the post office, and no more thought need be had about it. In a few days it is in the hands of the rejoicing mother. Who, by any rule in arithmetic, can calculate the value of the happiness imparted to a parent's heart by this simple operation? The expense in money is a mere trifle, and in labor no more. Suppose there were no such convenience—or rather, necessity—the communication between parents and children, brothers and sisters, lovers and friends, would in a thousand cases be impossible. Between long intervals, some neighbor might perhaps, make it convenient to convey a message to some distant loved one; yet how rarely would such opportunities occur. Few could afford to send a special messenger for the purpose of conveying a letter. We speak with rapture of the inventions of the present age, and they are wonderful, and are calculated to call forth the deepest sympathies of our nature. A few years ago a woman was compelled to wear out body and soul in the slow process of sewing. Now a piece of work which once would have required hours for its performance, is accomplished in as many minutes. The steamship, the railroad, and a thousand other things calculated to bless the race, have been brought out from the ingenious mind and put into active operation. In the process of nature, we may say all is wonderful, and calculated to call out the admiration of every reflecting man. The plant gathers its food from the soil in which it grows, and that too, which is exactly calculated for its growth and beauty. Its thousands of mouths are constantly sucking its nourishment, thus keeping itself in life and vigor. But the post office, we were about to say is no less wonderful. If we think of the thousands of offices scattered over the whole land, not only in the populous cities, but in the obscure, and out-of-the-way towns and villages, and that all these are daily receiving a greater or less number of letters, and that the carriers gather them up and bear them to the individuals to whom they are directed, with a safety and a speed which would certainly be impossible in any other way, we can see that the post office is one of the firmest pillars of civilization. But having always been accustomed to the blessings conferred upon us by the mail, we can hardly think of them as such. We are constantly complaining about the Department. We receive only one mail per day, but we think two are none too many. Out of hundreds and thousands of letters which are entrusted to the mail bags, one of the number does not reach its destination. Money is sometimes taken by the em-

ployees of the post office, or by the carrier of the mail. All these things occur; but can we suggest, on the whole, a better possible system? We can of course conceive of a more perfect one where there shall be no delays, miscarriages, thefts or mistakes, but our conceptions are about as practicable as Plato's Republic or Moore's Utopia. Fancy a letter being three, four or six months on its way from San Francisco or the Sandwich Islands—a fortnight from New York to Hartford. Fancy no post office system at all, and we shall realize, in some measure, the privileges we enjoy.

Some time since, we took up an old newspaper printed in Boston about ninety years ago, in which the editor says, "We to-day lay before our readers all European news, to within twelve months." Thus a year had passed, and what had transpired in Europe during that time was wholly unknown this side of the Atlantic. But now in ten or twelve days we have a minute description of the dress which England's Queen wore at her last reception, and the latest style of the Empress Eugenie's bonnet.

We may safely say that one of the strongest links in the chain which has bound together the several States, is the post office; and the breaking of this link has caused as much private grief, disappointment, and indeed, suffering as any other. Correspondence is in some cases carried on between individuals of the several States, but between the Northern and Southern States, it has ceased. Surely great is the madness that could rashly sever such a bond as this.

A Mother's Warning.

We cannot refrain from publishing the following simple yet touching letter found in possession of a post office clerk recently arrested and now confined in prison, for an extensive embezzlement of money letters, in the post office in which he was employed, in one of our principal cities. It was written but a few weeks previous to his detection. How prophetic are its words, and how pure the love of a mother! Had the timely admonition here tendered, been heeded in season, the unfortunate son might now have been administering to the comfort and happiness of this dearest of earthly friends, instead of consigning her to the chamber of sorrow, and perhaps to a premature grave.

Although these solemn words of a mother's warning, proved insufficient to arrest the downward course of her wayward son, we trust they may have the effect to deter others who may be placed under circumstances of responsibility and temptation, from venturing upon a similar course of dissipation and ruin.

Upon the envelope of the letter, were the following words: "Not to be opened nor read until you are in your room."

D—, Aug. 4, 1861.

MY DEAR SON:

After I returned home yesterday from B—, I felt sad and had a sleepless night, and I decided this morning to write you, and earnestly request you to read it calmly, and think seriously upon it. You wonder why I feel sad. It is because I think, George, that you are going too fast, and am fearful that unless you pause, and follow my advice, you will be ruined. Now don't start, nor condemn your poor mother, for I love you, and it is my earnest desire and prayer that you may be happy. In the first place, Mr. J— has opposed your going there on the Sabbath day, and unless you relinquish your going there every day or evening, he will oppose you. Now, it is your duty to keep away at least three evenings in the week. Stay at home, retire early, in order to give you strength for your duties at the post office, and besides, appearances will be for your benefit, and you will perform your duties better. If you will reflect on a moment, you will see that I am right, for I have experience and can understand property better than you can in this case, because, you are carried hastily away by the impulse of the moment.

Depend upon it I am right, and you will say so. Again, I am sad because you are spending too much money. You must be more prudent, or you will get into debt and lose your place.—Think of it.

You must change, become sober minded, and lead a different life, and then you will be happy. O, my dear son, follow my advice, and make your poor afflicted mother happy by a noble and virtuous career. You are not a child, and should put away childish things, and be a man, a man of fixed principles, doing what is right, and shunning what is wrong, and by so doing, you will establish a good name which is precious. I again request you to save all the money you can, not so much on my account, as on your dear brothers'. We don't know but that he may come home from the war sick or wounded, and he will have to depend on you, and for every dollar you save for him, he will give you two. I write this for your own welfare and happiness. Think of it. Take my advice and seek aid from your Heavenly Father, by prayer, night and morning, and ere long you will have cause to thank you.

AFFECTIONATE MOTHER.

The following address was copied from a letter recently passing through the New York Post Office:

To the Young Lady that wears
A Black Parasole Black Hat
Black veil Black shawl with
White cheek border light complexion
not very tall and that crosses
Fulton Ferry
at BALLOU'S NO 18 SPRUCE ST.

[For the U. S. Mail.

Carelessness and Dishonesty.

There are very few places in the business world where carelessness or villainy can cause more inconvenience or do more injury than in the post office. When then we hear those charged with the handling of mail matter, whether post office clerk or route agent, excuse their carelessness in sorting or in arranging for delivery to the public, by the remark that "It will all come out right at last," we feel that there is one man, at least, in the service of the department that it were far better to have elsewhere.

But great as is the injury from the carelessness above alluded to, the wrong done by the deliberate villainy which opens, robs and destroys the correspondence of the public, is greater still. The money is enclosed to pay a debt, but it falls into dishonest hands, and the debt has either to be paid again or charged to the profit and loss account of the creditor. A poor man, by prudent saving, provides means to pay his life insurance premium. A dishonest clerk abstracts the letter, and the evidence of payment is gone, and with it, except by grace of the insurance company, the policy which should provide for his family in case of death. A servant girl has saved a few dollars out of her two dollars a week, and mails them with many a word of affection to the old folks at home. Neither the money nor the kind words reach them, and many a fearful foreboding of harm, to the absent daughter, have the old people, as they think of the unaccounted interval since last they heard from her. The brave volunteer, fighting for his country and his own fireside, sends to the old mother or the wife whom he left at home, the money which he has so manfully earned with his life in his hand, and even this precious treasure falls a prey to the rapacious plunderer. And so illustrations might be selected almost by the hundred from the cases constantly occurring of the suffering, both in feelings and in the actual necessities, not to say comforts of life, resulting from mail deceptions.

Careless clerk! careless route agent! you know not what interests you are hazarding, what disappointment you are causing, to what fireside you are carrying sadness by your carelessness. Do your business carefully and thoroughly, and let other shoulders than yours bear the blame of errors, if errors there must be. And if no maximum of common honesty restrain any mail robber whose eye may chance to see this article, let the idea of the trouble caused by him, as revealed in each letter into whose contents he wrongly pries, make one last appeal to his remaining sense of manliness.

[For the U. S. Mail.

Quimby's Letter Case for Post Offices.

A late number of the *Scientific American*, contains an illustration and description of the above named letter box. It is simply an adaptation of the familiar principle upon which the tables of distances placed upon large maps, or tables of rates of fare from point to point upon railroads, are constructed, to the alphabetic arrangement of letters in the general delivery cases of the post office. If the editor of the *American* had visited the large post offices in New England and elsewhere, he would have seen in nearly all of them letter cases similar to those he describes, where they have been in use for many years.

It is simply an upright case, say, 6 feet, 4 inches high, by 3 feet 7 inches wide, and 7 inches deep, divided into 400 boxes, arranged 40 square, making each box about 2 inches by 3 1/2 square, and 7 inches deep. The rows thus formed are lettered at the top and sides with the letters of the alphabet, one letter to each row, except only that some offices find it convenient and sufficient for their business, to assign one row in each direction, to the letters I and J; one to the letters O, P and Q; one to the letters U and V, and one to the letters X, Y and Z. Upon this matter of arrangement, each office must be its own judge.

In putting up letters, the alphabet at the head of the case is the guide as to the family name, while that at the side is the guide as to the given name. Thus, letters for Daniel Brown, will be put in the box at the angle of B at the head of the case, and D at its side. In like manner James K. Polk will be found in the box at the angle of P at the head, and J at the side of the case, and so on through the entire alphabet.

It will promote the convenience of the clerk in attendance that each box be marked with the initial letters of its contents. Thus the "Daniel Brown" angle above referred to will be indicated by the initials D. B.; the "James K. Polk" angle by the initials J. P., and so on.

These particulars may prove a convenience to some postmaster who is re-arranging his office, and may hesitate in adopting the above described arrangement for fear of infringing on somebody's patent.

[The improved letter case to which allusion is here made, was first invented and put in operation as long ago as 1840, in the post office at Providence, R. I. We saw it there in 1846, and were so well pleased with its compactness and labor-saving qualities, that we took pains to sound its praises and furnish rough drawings of it in all the offices we visited where the business required such a contrivance, at the same time giving the address of the mechanic in

Providence, who constructed the original, and subsequently filed orders extensively, received from distant points. Among the offices where they were earliest adopted, and are now in use, are Washington, D. C., Buffalo, Rochester, Utica, Syracuse, Albany, and Brooklyn, N. Y., Springfield, Mass., Hartford and New Haven, Conn., and others. It is believed that by the aid of this case, originally called the "Square of the Alphabet," our clerk can deliver letters as fast as three under any of the old divisions of the letters. The advantages to the public in the saving of time, etc., are quite as important as they are to the postmasters and their clerks.—ED. MAIL.]

Making Postage Stamps.

In our last, we alluded to the new contract for manufacturing postage stamps, awarded to the National Bank Note Company of this city, and gave some description of the different denominations of the stamps, together with various other facts and statistics. We find in the *Evening Post*, of this city, some very interesting remarks on the same subject, describing more in detail the process of manufacturing, counting, packing, etc. We make the annexed extract from the *Post*:—

THE PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE.
An article in the *Evening Post* of yesterday, describing the various processes of bank-note engraving, will give a general idea of the manufacture of the Post Office stamps. As in bank-note plates, the design is engraved upon a steel plate, which is hardened and "taken up" on a decarbonized cylinder, which in turn is hardened, and then transferred by presses of enormous power to the plate from which the stamps are finally printed. All the resources of a first-class engraving establishment are employed; the work must be artistic, and surrounded with those securities which add to the beauty of the design, and at the same time render their imitation expensive, if not impossible.

The employment of transferring machines allows the repetition of the same design to an indefinite extent, and the cylindrical dies, as in the case of bank-note vignettes, are used to produce new plates, or to retouch those worn in the process of printing. Thus a single die is repeated on a single plate, 8x16 inches, two hundred times, and the plate when finished is ready for the printer.

The process of printing is the same as in ordinary copper or steel plate work. The ink is applied so as to fill the lines of the engraving, the plate is wiped clean, the dampened paper applied, and the impression taken on a cylinder press. There are nine presses in this establishment, six of them driven by steam, and now running night and day to meet the demand for the new stamps.

THE GUMMING PROCESS.
From the press the sheets are taken to the drying room and dried in an atmosphere heated to about one hundred and twenty degrees, after which they are gummed. The adhesive applied is a secret of the inventor, but for the benefit of those who wet the stamps on their tongues (which is a matter of taste) it may be stated that the new gum is an improvement upon what has heretofore been used, and contains a small quantity of sugar. The gum is applied by hand. In drying the gummed sheets no less than twenty-five hundred small frames, with canvas coverings and each containing two sheets of stamps, are employed. These are laid upon each other, making huge piles, and almost filling the large-sized room devoted to this department of the manufacture. The smoothing of the sheets is a hydraulic press completes the process. The work in this room is performed almost exclusively by girls.

PERFORATION.
The perforation of the spaces between the stamps, so as to facilitate dividing them, as well as to promote, by the roughness of the edges, their adhesion, is a rapid and peculiar operation. It is done by means of revolving cylinders, armed on the surface with rows of circular cutting instruments, and which, as the sheets pass, produce rows of holes. Each sheet is drawn twice through the machine, in different directions, cutting completely around every stamp.

The sheets are afterwards divided, leaving one hundred stamps on each half.

Counting and packing complete the work. The last is done in accordance with particular directions from the Post Office Department, and packages are made up containing from two hundred stamps to two hundred and fifty thousand.

HOW THE WORK IS DONE.
The number of persons employed by the company in this manufacture, from the commencement to the delivery of the finished stamps, is thirty-three.

The work is conducted under the supervision of a government agent, and its important character demands for the interest of both the contractors and the government the utmost attention of responsible men.

Post office stamp engraving and printing has heretofore been done by Toppin, Carpenter & Co., of Philadelphia. For the next six years, according to contract, it is to be performed by the National Bank Note Company of this city. The cost of manufacture to the government has been lessened by the recent contract.

The business of furnishing stamped envelopes is in the hands of other parties.

WHAT IS DONE WITH THE STAMPS.
For obvious reasons it is manifest that the number of stamps to be used during the coming year will show a marked decline from those of the past year, which amounted to nearly two hundred and sixteen millions. The yearly increase has lately averaged nineteen millions. It is estimated that the number required for the next year will reach two hundred millions—thus throwing off the usual increase, and sixteen millions in addition, on account of the seceded States.

Over ten millions of the various denominations have already been furnished to the government, and the manufacturers are producing them at the rate of one million three hundred thousand a day.

[On application at the office of the stamp contractors, we find that the whole number of stamps manufactured by them up to the 1st of September inst., is 22,948,650.—ED. MAIL.]



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor. NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 1, 1881.

TERMS—One dollar per year payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York. Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

To Our Patrons.

This number completes the first volume of the U. S. Mail. As we have already stated, the paper was commenced under circumstances the most unfavorable. The Southern postmasters were not in a mood to respond to our proposition to aid them in the discharge of their official duties. Consequently we received but very few subscriptions from that quarter.

But we have faith to believe that all will yet come out right, and as our subscription list has been gradually increasing, we intend that the MAIL shall continue its regular monthly trips for the coming year, and our design is to make it more and more useful in the postal service.

Old and New Stamps.

There is, we find, some confusion in many post offices, growing out of the recent change in the style of postage stamps. The instructions require that on the receipt of a supply of the new stamps, they are to be exchanged for old ones, for one week, after which the old ones are not to be recognized in the pre-payment of postage at that office.

In the absence of official authority on this point, we venture to advise that as a temporary necessity, the old stamps be used, as the pre-payment in money is an absolute violation of law, while the requirement to cease the employment of the former issue of stamps, after a certain time, is a regulation of the Department.

ALTERATIONS IN OUR FOREIGN POSTAGE TABLE.—We would call attention to several alterations made in our Table of Foreign Postage Rates, on the fourth page. It will be seen that the postage chargeable upon letters for Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and all other parts of China, Japan, Java, the Philippine Islands, Luzon, Borneo, Siam, Sumatra, and the Moluccas, posted in the United States, for transmission via the United Kingdom, will hereafter be forty-five cents, the single rate of half an ounce or under, prepayment required; and that this increased rate of postage must be levied and collected in this country upon all such letters, whether directed for transmission from England via Southampton or via Marseilles.

NEW POST OFFICES ESTABLISHED.—We resume in this number of our paper, the list of new post offices established by the Post Master General, and shall hereafter publish such lists regularly. As they are furnished us directly from the Department, they may be relied on as official. The present list embraces all new offices created since March 16th, to which date our former lists are brought up.

THE NEW LETTER SHEET ENVELOPE.—The letter sheet and envelope combined, ordered some time since by the Department, has been issued from the establishment of Mr. Nesbit, of this city, the contractor for the Government envelopes. It is a neat and convenient contrivance, and will we have no doubt at once become quite popular in business transactions.

BOOTS STAMPS AND ENVELOPES.—There is reason to believe that quantities of counterfeit stamped envelopes have been recently issued at some locality as yet unknown, and it is quite probable that the fraud has been extended to the postage stamps also.

PRICES OF THE NEW LETTER ENVELOPES.—We would call attention to our new list of prices of Government Envelopes, several new sizes and rates of which have lately been introduced.

BOOTS FINES.—A postmaster asks us if he has a right to withhold letters addressed to names or firms, by other than their real names—that is, when fictitious addresses are resorted to evidently for improper purposes.

Well, B., said he, "I have known you for some years, and have believed you to be an upright, honest clerk, and an object that this interview has fully dissipated any doubts that may have been created by the very singular circumstances which have surrounded you. All this shows that when one is really and truly all right, nothing can permanently injure him. You now have the advantage of knowing that your reputation stands even stronger than it did before you were subjected to suspicion and scrutiny, and I am sure that when I tell you that your fellow clerk S. is now under arrest, charged with these robberies, you will be better armed against temptation, and more than ever disposed to avoid the consors which have brought him to his present unfortunate condition."

Honestly Vindicated.

Among the many evils which a dishonest post office clerk is bringing upon innocent persons, both inside and outside of the office, not the least is the suspicion which for a time, and occasionally for a long time, rests upon those who are free from guilt, but who, as long as the delinquent remains undetected, are brought by their position and other circumstances, under the scrutiny of the officers of the law. It is indeed curious how a combination of circumstances will sometimes point with seeming infallibility to the wrong man, and it has often been a source of no small gratification to us in our official capacity to be able to scatter the cloud of suspicion which has been gathering over persons whose honesty only shows the brighter afterwards for the temporary obscurity which it suffered.

A case which lately occurred in a neighboring city will illustrate these remarks. Repeated depredations had been complained of, which apparently were committed by some one in the post office, and a certain special agent was intrusted with the investigation of the affair. Among other complaints was one made by a student from the East, in a literary institution in the city, who stated to the postmaster that he had received a letter from home in which money had been enclosed, and that when he took the letter from the office, the money was gone. It was believed at first that he had actually received the money, and was attempting to cheat the post office, and at the same time get another remittance from home, and this suspicion resided on him until the clerk, who was guilty of all the robberies, confessed, after his detection, that he himself had taken the money from the letter.

There was another clerk in the office who had been employed there for several years, and during that time had maintained an unspotted reputation. Such a man, of course, was one upon whom suspicion would not readily fall. Yet there were circumstances connected with his duties in the office which at the outset rendered it imperative for the agent to subject to a close scrutiny, his habits, expenditures, and everything which could throw light upon his guilt or innocence. To begin with, the mails which had sufficed the most were almost exclusively made up by him. He was taciturn and reserved in his manner, and after watching his motions rather narrowly for awhile, the agent was more than half inclined to pronounce him a rogue. This theory seemed to be confirmed by a continuance of the investigation, which brought to light the fact that B. (the clerk), had a snug little sum put away in a savings bank, the dates of the deposits agreeing wonderfully well with the dates of the losses of sundry money letters. It came out also about the same time, that B. was engaged to be married, and as Cupid is thought to be, in some cases, a not a little affected by cupidity, it was considered possible that in the present instance the matrimonial prospects of B. might have tempted him to unlawful means for increasing his pecuniary resources. In the meantime, a fellow-clerk, having been caught in the act of robbing the office, was arrested, and money was found in his possession nearly equal in the aggregate, to the amount lost.

Still the agent was not quite satisfied with regard to the innocence of B. It did not follow that because one delinquent had been detected in an office, there could not be another. There might be two, acting independently of one another. At any rate, the confession of the arrested clerk, a thought it did not implicate B., failed to remove suspicion from him entirely, and the agent determined to sift the matter thoroughly. He accordingly sought an interview with B. before the detection and arrest of his fellow-clerk was known to him, and without making any charges against him, the agent alluded to the unusual number of losses which had lately occurred in the office, at the same time watching the effect upon the countenance of the clerk, of these remarks. He showed no sign of disturbance, but maintained his ordinary phlegmatic manner. The agent continued, "Under the circumstances, you will not object to a few plain questions?"

"By no means," replied B. "Well then, let me ask what salary you have received during the past year?" "Six hundred dollars, sir, or fifty dollars per month." "What have you paid for board?" "Most of the time I have boarded at home, and paid twelve dollars a month." "That would leave you thirty-eight dollars a month, would it not?" "Certainly, sir." "And after paying other expenses have you been able to save anything, and if so, how much?" "Well, I have a little in the savings bank, say three hundred dollars or so." "When did you deposit that?" "At different times. A hundred dollars a few days after our new postmaster came in, and thirty dollars a month after, and so on." "But how could you, out of fifty dollars a month, deposit a hundred dollars at one time?" "O, I transferred my deposits from one savings bank to another. The hundred dollars was originally deposited in small sums."

All that he stated regarding the amount he had in the bank, and the sums which he had deposited at different times, corresponded with what the agent and postmaster, from previous investigation, knew to be true. The entire frankness and accuracy with which these replies were given, left no doubt, in the mind of the agent, of the clerk's honesty.

He received with much surprise and regret this announcement of the fate of his associate, and said he hoped he should never be drawn in to do as S. had done.

A few playful words regarding B's intended step in the right (matrimonial) direction, B. readily acknowledging the soft inebriation, closed the interview, and he returned to the assorting table with a light step, and we hope with firmer resolutions than ever.

Post Office, M., N. Y., Aug. 23, 1881.

To the Editor of the Mail.

Sir,—Will you please give me your opinion on the following case. There is residing in this place a man by the name of Charles Perkins, who receives his letters at this office. A letter came to this office addressed to Chester Perkins, which he, Charles, thinks is intended for him. The reason for thinking so, is that he knows of no person by the name of Chester Perkins, and thinks if there was such a person he should know it. Now ought I to allow him to open the letter for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is intended for him?

This is one of a class of cases which are occurring almost every day, and not unfrequently give rise to much hard feeling, and I would like to have your opinion as to the proper course to be pursued. If you do not think the matter of sufficient general interest to answer it in your paper, please answer by letter. What I want to know is this: Is it proper under any circumstances to deliver a letter otherwise than as addressed, on the supposition that the writer was mistaken? Respectfully yours, R. A. B., P. M.

Strictly speaking, it is no part of the business of postmasters, to make allowance for the blunders and carelessness of correspondents in addressing their letters. The laws have provided such remedies through the agency of the dead letter office, and such is the promptness with which letters of any consequence now find their way to the proper persons or the writers, that a rigid enforcement of the laws, as a general rule, imposes but slight inconvenience.

Still, the exercise of some option in the matter referred to, is perhaps unavoidable. In the case for instance of a letter addressed to William F. Baker. William T. Baker calls for it, furnishing satisfactory proof that the letter is intended for him. There being no William F. Baker known within the delivery of the office, it would be rather hard to withhold the letter if the individual applying for it, were a man of character and respectability. If a letter is obtained in this way however, actually belonging to another party, and is purposely retained or improperly converted, the real owner has his redress in applying the penalty which the laws provide.

In the above case of "Perkins," the mere fact that he knows no Chester Perkins in the town, is not sufficient to authorize the delivery of the letter to him. How does he know that Chester is not a transient person, or one who expects to pass through the town, and call for his letter?

TUCKERMAN AGAIN.—William S. Tuckerman, sentenced to the Connecticut State Prison for twenty-one years, for mail robbery, has recently petitioned the President, for a pardon, but three years of his term having expired. The application is said to be based upon rapidly declining health. This position does not seem to be endorsed by the Prison physician, but it seems Tuckerman obtained a certificate in its support, from some outside M. D., who gave the opinion that the petitioner would not probably long survive, unless liberated. The Warden certified that Tuckerman appeared a little "pison worn," and that is as far as he would go.

The application has been declined, after an examination of the papers by the United States Attorney General. We understand that Tuckerman has behaved as well as could have been desired, since his confinement. We believe his wife is a governess in the family of the Warden of the prison.

For two or three months prior to the middle of July, the complaints ceased, but they recommenced about that time. This is since explained by the enlistment of Brown, in one of the Rhode Island regiments. He returned however, in advance of his comrades, having procured a discharge owing to ill health. But there were the tempting letter boxes which had so often replenished his scanty resources, and he once more resorted to them as to never failing and trusting friends. A few trials produced a check for \$435, in a few days after, was offered in person at one of the banks. The teller not quite liking the endorsement, politely declined to cash it. Brown bowed himself out, but soon after returned, and again urged the payment of the check on the ground that he needed the money at once, and protesting that it was all right. But the suspicions of the teller were by this time somewhat aroused, and he promptly declined to receive the paper without the proper references. An officer was sent for and a description of the gentleman furnished, and Brown was soon found and arrested. In his office which was well carpeted and furnished

Since our last publication, an unusual number of arrests have been made, of persons charged with the heinous offence of mail robbery, and purloining letters from post offices. In all but two of those cases, the persons implicated were in the employ of the P. O. Department, and it is this class of delinquents against whom the severest penalties of the law are aimed. For such, the stealing of a single letter containing any article of value, whether a three cents postage stamp, or five thousand dollars in bank notes, the punishment is imprisonment not less than ten nor more than twenty-one years.

FRANKLIN M. REAN, employed in the Philadelphia Post Office for nearly twenty-four years, was arrested on the 8th of August, evidence of the most positive nature, against him, having been previously obtained by Mr. Row, the Special Agent of the Department. He was, it appears, a clerk upon what is called the "Eastern case," where the New Jersey and East Pennsylvania letters are cased up. An unusual number of losses among that class of letters which would fall under his particular charge, attracted especial attention to him, and notwithstanding his operations were conducted with much caution—believing, no doubt, as is often the case, that he was shrewd enough to avoid the clumsy manoeuvres which had consigned so many of his less cautious cotemporaries to a felon's doom—he was one day aroused from his dream of security, by a tap upon the shoulder by Uncle Sam's vigilant officer, and the discovery in his watch box of sundry bank notes, which proved to be old acquaintances of the aforesaid special agent. He insisted upon it that he had picked them up on the floor of the office, but as the money was known by no less than two good witnesses to have been safely enclosed in a letter which no one but himself had handled, and which letter had suddenly disappeared, that dodge would not do. He had been picked up instead of the bank notes.

Read had been particularly partial to registered letters on their way to Egg Harbor city, and Atlantic City, New Jersey, to which places considerable money is sent during the "watering" season. The aggregate of his robberies must have been large, from what we know of the constant complaints of losses in that direction for several months past. His trial took place on the 27th ult, and resulted in his conviction.

CHARLES CENTER, for several years a clerk in the Boston Post Office, and at the time of his detection employed as one of the principal box clerks, is now under arrest and in close confinement, as the result of a series of bold and oft-repeated embezzlements of letters. His dashing exploits and extravagant expenditures outside the office, first attracted attention to him, and caused suspicions, in connection with reported depredations in the Boston office, which finally led to his detection. Receiving a salary of \$700 only, he was yet enabled to dress extravagantly and to employ the best livery establishments to be found in the city, with which to make excursions to the neighboring towns accompanied often by some of the most fashionable and expensive courtesans of "South End." Thus accompanied, on one or two occasions, he hired the magnificent establishment devoted to the use of the Prince of Wales, when in Boston, consisting of four splendid chargers with gold mounted harnesses, and a superb barouche to match. He was not only a fast young man, but a very fast driver, as became quite apparent to the owner of a fine horse valued at \$300, the poor animal surviving but a few days after being too furiously driven by Center. The owner, however, kept quiet, although he knew the young man was a post office clerk, and if we mistake not, has received the value of the defunct steed, by instalments, no doubt taken from the letters entrusted to the mails by confiding though unfortunate correspondents.

Center was detected by Special Agent Ordway, aided by Mr. Lewis, one of the principal clerks in the Boston office. He was fully committed by U. S. Commissioner Woodbury, and his final trial is expected to take place at the September term of the U. S. Court in Boston.

HENRY BROWN, of Providence, R. I., was an outside operator, and managed by means of file keys in open a number of the "lock boxes," and abstract their contents. He commenced this bold and hazardous business, it appears, as long ago as last March, when among other "hits" he made, he took from the box of Razez & Co., a bank check for nearly \$400, and succeeded in getting it cashed at one of the city banks without detection. The case received the attention of the proper officers, at the time, but the rogue escaped their vigilance. Not long after, the same game, with the same results, was successfully carried on with the contents of the boxes of other firms, the banks paying the forged checks or drafts without the least suspicion, owing in part, no doubt, to the unusual coolness and capital address of the party presenting them.

For two or three months prior to the middle of July, the complaints ceased, but they recommenced about that time. This is since explained by the enlistment of Brown, in one of the Rhode Island regiments. He returned however, in advance of his comrades, having procured a discharge owing to ill health. But there were the tempting letter boxes which had so often replenished his scanty resources, and he once more resorted to them as to never failing and trusting friends. A few trials produced a check for \$435, in a few days after, was offered in person at one of the banks. The teller not quite liking the endorsement, politely declined to cash it. Brown bowed himself out, but soon after returned, and again urged the payment of the check on the ground that he needed the money at once, and protesting that it was all right. But the suspicions of the teller were by this time somewhat aroused, and he promptly declined to receive the paper without the proper references. An officer was sent for and a description of the gentleman furnished, and Brown was soon found and arrested. In his office which was well carpeted and furnished

business as a "cotton broker," was found a list of the owners of some ten or twelve post office boxes, and among them were those who had so often suffered the loss of their correspondence. Also several keys by means of which he had committed the robberies.

Brown is to be tried next month. FRANCIS E. DICKINSON, has been a clerk in various post offices in New England, and was recently employed in the office at Enfield, Mass. The indications are that the practice of tampering with letters began with him while a clerk in the Ware, (Mass.) post office, as he had the principle charge there at a time when complaints of losses were frequent. There are also other strong evidences on this point. Dickinson had been in the Enfield office but a short time, when similar troubles were experienced. One of the agents of the Department went into the neighborhood, and was not long in fastening the authorship of the depredations upon him. Portions of a money letter known to have been in the office and not delivered, were found among the waste papers in the office, and another stolen letter was found secured upon his person when arrested. He is now in confinement, awaiting his trial.

JAMES JOHNSON, alias Bailey, is in jail at Albany, charged with stealing an entire mail pouch while on his way from this city to Troy, N. Y., on the 12th July last. He is an "outsider," that is, is no way connected with the post office or the mails, and has long been known to the police of this city, as a professional thief. The chief evidence against him is, that being arrested in Albany, on a charge of larceny, two dollars for \$250.00 each, known to have been in the stolen mail pouch, were found in his possession.

Several other arrests have been made recently, at Washington and elsewhere, the particulars of which we have not received.

ORIGIN OF THE MAIL COACH SERVICE.—The greatest improvement in the English mail service, during the eighteenth century, was the introduction of mail coaches. This was brought about by the energy and perseverance of John Palmer, Esq. Like most of those who introduced great improvements, he was an "outsider," one unacquainted by business habits and associations, with the post office service.

At that time (about 1783) stage coaches, with passengers, traversed the country over all the principal mails, and ran from five to seven miles an hour. The mail, however, never had any better conveyance than that of a horse or a gig, managed by a man or boy. The whole mail service was on a most irregular footing; mail robberies were frequent, and the speed did not average over three and a half miles an hour.

Mr. Palmer's plan was, to have the mails transferred to the stage coaches, that the swiftest conveyance which the country afforded should carry the mails. For so obvious an improvement, we would suppose that there would be little or no opposition. Parliamentary Committees were appointed, Post Masters General reported, and all the officials were against it! Parliament took it up; the proposition was debated in Parliament; and, after many years of persevering labor, Mr. Palmer saw his plan adopted.

But opposition did not end here. There were more reports against it, and those who opposed it first from ignorance, and a belief that no improvement would result, now kept up their opposition from a dread of being thought false prophets. But there were those who appreciated the improvement, and Mr. Palmer got a pension from Government of three thousand pounds a year for life, and afterwards a grant of fifty thousand pounds, for the benefit his improvement in the mail service had been to the revenue of the country.

We have, from a well known post office reformer, Rowland Hill, a nice piece of sarcasm for the special benefit of those who oppose great improvements, and then deny their value after they have been adopted and proved.

A report from the English Post Master General says: "From a comparison of the gross produce of inland postage for four months, and from every other comparison they have been able to make, they were perfectly satisfied that the revenue has been very considerably decreased by the plan of mail coaches."

This report gives the opinions of the Lords of the Treasury, and enlarges on the innumerable inconveniences which the change had occasioned. The great post office reformer, forty years after this, makes the following comment:—"They must be the responsibility on those who thus persisted in folly and mischief; and wonderful is it that Mr. Palmer should have been able to beguile the Government and the legislature into sanctioning his mad career! Who was the statesman, unworthy of the name, that thus gave the rein to audacity; that thus became, in his besotted ignorance, the tool of presumption? Who the official godfather to the abortion, and insisted on the admission of the hideous and deformed monster into the sacred precincts of Lombard Street, the seat of perfection? His name—alas! that the lynx should be guided by the mole! that Samson should be seduced by Delilah! Palmerus alured by a dream—his name was WILLIAM PITT.—Ten Years among the Mail Bags.

Hon. JOSEPH HOLT, late of the Post Office and War Department, delivered one of those eloquent Union speeches for which he is so distinguished, at Irving Hall in this city, on the evening of the 3d inst.

Robert J. Walker once remarked in our presence, that Mr. Holt was "the most eloquent man in the world." "Governor," said we, "that is saying a great deal." "I know it is," replied Mr. Walker, "but it is nevertheless true."

We never heard a public speaker, not excepting Henry Ward Beecher, who pronounced a more thrilling effect upon an audience than Mr. Holt. The great secret of this is, that both these orators speak from the heart.

The influence which Judge Holt is everywhere exerting upon the Union cause is very powerful. By the way, all our living ex Postmasters General, as far back as we can remember, are savagely down on the rebellion, namely: Hon. C. A. Wickliffe, Hon. Cave Johnson, Judges Colamer and Hall, Hon. Mr. Holt, and Hon. Horatio King. We need hardly add the name of the present worthy head of the Department, as one of the most devoted and vigilant champions of the Union cause, with which the country is now honored.

Several other arrests have been made recently, at Washington and elsewhere, the particulars of which we have not received.

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UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, preparation is optional; in all other cases, preparation is required.

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TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

Canada, New Brunswick, Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. * 10 cents when not over 3,000 miles from the line of crossing. * 15 cents when distance exceeds 3,000 miles. Preparation optional.

Not exceeding quarter ounce. Not exceeding half ounce. Not exceeding one ounce. Pamphlets per ounce.

Not exceeding quarter ounce. Not exceeding half ounce. Not exceeding one ounce. Pamphlets per ounce.

Not exceeding quarter ounce. Not exceeding half ounce. Not exceeding one ounce. Pamphlets per ounce.

Newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and sent to regular subscribers in the British North American Provinces, or published in those Provinces and sent to regular subscribers in the United States, are chargeable with the regular prepaid quarterly rates of United States postage to and from the line; which postage must be collected at the office of mailing in the United States on matter sent, and at the office of delivery in the United States on matter received. In like manner, such matter, if transient, is chargeable with the regular domestic transient postage matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States as the case may be. Editors, however, may exchange free of expense.

Letters received from Canada, to which are affixed uncancelled United States postage stamps of sufficient value to prepay the full postage chargeable thereon, should be delivered without charge by the United States offices.

REGISTRATION OF LETTERS.

Valuable letters, addressed to Germany or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by the Bremen line via New York, or by the Prussian closed mail via New York or Boston, as also letters addressed to Great Britain and Canada, will be registered on the application of the person posting the same, in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States, provided that the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of five cents on each letter, is prepaid at the mailing office. Such letters should be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS, ETC.

All letters to and from foreign countries (the German States, etc., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, France and the British North American Provinces excepted) are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of half an ounce; double rate, if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding one ounce; quadruple rate, if exceeding one ounce, but not exceeding two ounces; and so on, charging two rates for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce over the first ounce. As this rule differs from that followed in respect to domestic letters, great care is requisite to prevent mistakes. Letters in the mail to France are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of one quarter ounce; double rate, if exceeding a quarter, but not exceeding half an ounce; and so on, an additional rate being charged for each quarter ounce or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Such letters should be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS GOING VIA FRANCE.

In the case of letters to be forwarded in the British mail for transmission from England via Marseilles, the French postage is rated at six cents the quarter ounce, except with reference to letters to the Syria and Aden, by French packet, when the single French rate is twelve cents. The French rate on all such letters must therefore be doubled for each quarter of an ounce in weight. The rates by French mail are in full to destination, except to the following places, viz.: Aden, Batavia, Ceylon, China, cities of Turkey in Europe, except as herein mentioned, via Austria, countries to which correspondence can be sent via Suez, countries beyond France via France other than those enumerated, East India, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Java, Mauritius, Montenegro, Penang, Portugal, Isle of Pines, Union, Syria, (except Belgrade), Shanghai, Singapore, and Suez. The limit of preparation to Spain, Portugal, and Sardinia, is in Belhio, to Serbia, (except Belgrade), Montenegro, and cities of Turkey in Europe, except as herein mentioned, "via Austria," the frontier of Turkey and Austria; to Aden, East India, Ceylon, China, and other countries via Suez, the weight of the letters or of the sea cargo of China to which the English packets ply, or to places beyond sea, other than those designated, the limit is the port of arrival in the country of destination.

RATES ON PAMPHLETS, MAGAZINES, ETC.

On pamphlets and magazines, to or from the West coast of South America, the United States postage is four cents; and to or from all other foreign countries (except Great Britain and the British North American Provinces), one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce; to be collected in all cases in the United States. Newspapers and periodicals to foreign countries (particularly to the continent of Europe) must be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends; otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage.

ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, ETC.

To prevent mistakes at the exchange offices, it is desirable that the particular routes by which letters are to be forwarded from the United States to Europe should be distinctly written on the covers. Letters intended for transmission in the open mail to England should bear the direction "open mail via England;" if for transmission in the French mail, they should be directed, "via France in French mail;" if for transmission by closed mail to Prussia, they should be directed, "via Prussian closed mail;" if for transmission in the closed mail to Belgium, they should be directed, "via Belgium closed mail;" and if for transmission by the New York and Bremen line to Bremen, or by the New York and Hamburg line to Hamburg, they should be directed, "via Bremen," or "via Hamburg."

DATE OF DEPARTURE OF EUROPEAN, SOUTH PACIFIC AND HAVANA MAILS, FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1864.

Table with columns: Name of the Line, Government belonging to, Date of Departure from New York, Date of Departure from Boston, Destination.

Table of postages to various countries including Acapulco, Aden, Africa, Alexandria, Algiers, Ancona, Antwerp, Arabia, Argentina, Ascension, Aspinwall, Australia, Bahia, Bankok, Barcelona, Batavia, Bavaria, Belgium, Bern, Bogota, Bolivia, Borneo, Bourbon, Bremen, Brunswick, Buenos Aires, Calcutta, Canada, Canary Islands, Cebu, Ceylon, China, Cochinchina, Constantinople, Cornwall, Cuba, Curacao, Cuxhaven, Dardanelles, Denmark, Durazzo, East Indies, Ecuador, Egypt, Falkland Islands, France, Frankfurt, Galatz, Genoa, Gibraltar, Greece, Hamburg, Hanover, Harbin, Havre, Heligoland, Holland, Honolulu, Hong Kong, India, Ionian Islands, Italy, Japan, Java, Jerusalem, Karlsruhe, Kerassund, Labuan, Larnaca, Lanenburg, Latvia, Liberia, Lombardy, Lunenburg, Madeira, Malacca, Maldivas, Malta, Martinique, Mauritius, Mexico, Mecklenburg, Messina, Minorca, Miylen, Modena, Montevideo, Murcia, Naples, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New South Wales, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Nova Scotia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Parma, Persia, Penang, Philadelphia, Pinar del Rio, Ponce, Porto Rico, Prussia, Rangoon, Reval, Rhodes, Roman, Romagna, Russia, Sardinia, Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Seville, Senegal, Serbia, Sicily, Siam, Singapore, Soudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Helena, Smyrna, Switzerland, Syria, Tientsin, Tientsin, Tientsin, Trieste, Tunis, Turkey, Uruguay, Valparaiso, Van Diemen's Land, Varna, Venice, Victoria, West Indies, Yonkers, Zanzibar.

Table of postages to various countries including Galatz, Gallipoli, Gambia, Gendane, German States, Gibraltar, Greece, Hamburg, Hanover, Harbin, Havre, Heligoland, Holland, Honolulu, Hong Kong, India, Ionian Islands, Italy, Japan, Java, Jerusalem, Karlsruhe, Kerassund, Labuan, Larnaca, Lanenburg, Latvia, Liberia, Lombardy, Lunenburg, Madeira, Malacca, Maldivas, Malta, Martinique, Mauritius, Mexico, Mecklenburg, Messina, Minorca, Miylen, Modena, Montevideo, Murcia, Naples, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New South Wales, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Nova Scotia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Parma, Persia, Penang, Philadelphia, Pinar del Rio, Ponce, Porto Rico, Prussia, Rangoon, Reval, Rhodes, Roman, Romagna, Russia, Sardinia, Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Seville, Senegal, Serbia, Sicily, Siam, Singapore, Soudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Helena, Smyrna, Switzerland, Syria, Tientsin, Tientsin, Tientsin, Trieste, Tunis, Turkey, Uruguay, Valparaiso, Van Diemen's Land, Varna, Venice, Victoria, West Indies, Yonkers, Zanzibar.

Table of postages to various countries including Penang, Philippino Islands, Placentia, Poland, Pondicherry, Portugal, Prussia, Reval, Rhodes, Roman, Romagna, Russia, Sardinia, Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Seville, Senegal, Serbia, Sicily, Siam, Singapore, Soudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Helena, Smyrna, Switzerland, Syria, Tientsin, Tientsin, Tientsin, Trieste, Tunis, Turkey, Uruguay, Valparaiso, Van Diemen's Land, Varna, Venice, Victoria, West Indies, Yonkers, Zanzibar.

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Pamphlets and periodicals two cents each, if not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if they exceed two ounces, to be collected in all cases in the United States. The above Postage Tables have been examined and adopted by the Post Office Department, and are to supersede all others now in use.

For Rates on Printed Matter for Foreign Countries, see Third Page.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1861.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

CHANGE IN FOREIGN POSTAGE RATES.—Instructions have been received at the New York Post Office from the Post Office Department, since our last publication, making sundry changes in the rates to be charged upon a certain class of foreign correspondence, in accordance with which our foreign postage labels have been corrected. We copy from the instructions—

"A reduction of one penny (two cents) the single rate having been made by Great Britain on prepaid letters mailed in the United Kingdom and addressed to Prussia, Austria, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemberg, Mecklenburg, Silesia, Aldenburg, Luxemburg, Brunswick, Lubeck, Hamburg, or Bremen. The British Office has consented to extend the benefit thereof to the paid correspondence between the United States and those countries respectively, transmitted through England in the United States and Prussian closed mail, by reducing the British territorial transit rate in respect to such prepaid letters, from 5d to 6d per ounce."

This reduced rate is confined to prepaid letters, and to those only which are addressed to the several States enumerated above. Therefore all unpaid letters to whatever part of Germany they may be addressed, and all prepaid letters addressed to any other German State than those mentioned, will continue to be chargeable with the existing rates of thirty cents.

Special Agents.

One of the most trying experiences in the life of a Special Agent, is the great difficulty he often encounters in the discharge of his duty from two different sources, namely—the public, which expects protection to its correspondence, and the friends of delinquent officials, who are ever ready to accuse the Agent of unnecessary severity and pertinacity in following up suspected persons. Thus he is placed between Scylla and Charybdis, and is fortunate if he succeeds in avoiding a collision either on one side or the other.

There are really but two classes of cases of mail depredations. In the first of these, the proof of the alleged crime is positive and overwhelming, the culprit having been detected as it were in the very act. It is rarely necessary, in these cases, to go through the forms of a trial. The plea of "guilty" is usually made, and the matter is disposed of by the Court, either by a sentence, or by a suspension of the same until an appeal can be made to Executive clemency. In these short and decisive proceedings, no opportunity is offered for censure of the Agent.

The other class of cases is not so easily disposed of. If a post-office employe is arrested on grounds which are considered sufficient, although for the time undisclosed to the public, many will be ready to question the justice of the proceeding, and to accuse the Agent of rashness and precipitation, if of nothing more heinous, in laying his hands upon one whose antecedents were respectable, and whose official position should, in their estimation, render the alleged delinquency extremely improbable. Again, the peculiar relations existing between a post-office clerk and the community in general, especially in small towns and villages, tend to enlist public sympathy on his side, particularly if he is polite and obliging in the discharge of his duties, and therefore a general favorite. The arrest of such a person is no sooner made public than the officer who has caused it, is called to encounter the opposition of all who feel an interest in the delinquent. His motives are often impugned, especially if he happens to conduct his proceedings without detailing to every one he meets the most minute facts and circumstances which have led to the arrest. He is charged with acting under the influence of prejudice. Others had the same opportunities that the suspected one had, and were quite as likely to have committed the robbery. Why should he be singled out, while they were permitted to go unpunished? Some improper influences must be acting on the mind of the Agent, to lead him to such a course.

These objectors do not seem to be aware that the Agent's knowledge of the affair may be somewhat greater than their own,—that he may have very good and sufficient reasons for his procedures, which the ends of justice require to be kept secret. But the indignation sometimes becomes quite strong against him because he thus singles out and follows up a certain suspected person with a pertinacity which appears to outsiders unwarranted by anything they know of the case. And after the delinquent's guilt is clearly proved, his sympathizers will often fall back upon the supposition that others who have not been disturbed are quite as worthy of punishment as he.

While sympathy with the unfortunate and erring is a commendable thing, it should be restrained within proper bounds, and not allowed to interfere with the duty which every one owes to the cause of public justice. A course like that of which we have spoken is only calculated to weaken the hands of government, and to have an effect detrimental to the interests of the very persons who so unthinkingly ensure the course of Government officials. Supposing that, in obedience to their clamor, proceedings against one of whose guilt there was abundant proof, should

be suspended, and he allowed to remain at his post. These persons themselves would quite as likely as any be the first to suffer from his continued depredations.

We would exhort, then, our fellow-citizens to exercise patience during the progress of legal investigations, and to reserve their indignation until it can be known whether they have sufficient cause for wrath. For ourselves, we can say that if we always obeyed the dictates of our feelings, many an offender would go free, and we only request of others to control their sympathies so as to keep them subordinate to the requirements of the public interest.

The Exchange of Postage Stamps.

It is the general custom of mankind, in enlarging upon the doctrine of cause and effect, to remark chiefly upon the great results so often produced by circumstances and events apparently trifling and insignificant in themselves; and the popular disposition to philosophize in this direction is illustrated in such proverbs as "Tall oaks from little acorns grow," and others of a similar import. But did it ever occur to the reader to stand on his head (morally, that is), and take a view of the subject from that novel, though somewhat awkward position?—or, in other words, to take a look through an inverted philosophical telescope, and see from what great causes small effects are sometimes produced—how the tall oak is necessary to the production of the little acorn—how the roar of heaven's artillery announces to the dairy-maid the fatal "turning" of her lactated treasures? At any rate, it will be necessary to take this view of the subject in referring to the cases which have induced the Government to issue a new style of postage-stamp and stamped envelope, differing in color and design from those previously issued, and to call upon the public, within a limited time, to present the latter at the different post offices, and receive the former in exchange. Of course, one naturally inquires the cause of such action on the part of the authorities; and the answer to this question is a striking exemplification of the truth of our topsy-turvy adage—"Small acorns grow from tall oaks." For the moving cause of this petty inconvenience to which we of the loyal States have nearly all of us been subjected by this change in the postage-stamps, must be attributed to no less a source than the terrible civil war which is now shaking the foundations of our country. What a ridiculous disproportion between great cause and small effect we have here! Had the traitorous hand of South Carolina not been raised against the Union—had the boom of the first rebel cannon, as it vomited its murderous iron hail at the stately banner which waved above Sumter and the heroic Anderson, never announced in its thunder tones that the mad ambition of traitors, and the sour discontent of disappointed politicians, was about to make our national horizon red with the halcyons of fraternal warfare,—then, (oh, lame and impotent conclusion!) then Smith, Brown, or Jones, would have been spared the trouble of waiting half an hour at the post office the other day to exchange "five 'threes,' and one 'one'." Perhaps the reader "don't see it." If he don't, we will explain.

It is not unknown to mankind that the originators and accomplices of this rebellion have not been particularly distinguished for their nice discrimination of the difference between *honor* and *tum*,—not over scrupulous as to the appropriation to their own uses of the property of either Uncle Sam or of any other individual whose worldly goods have, unfortunately, happened to come within reach of their itching palms. The name of Floyd will be a synonym to all time for wholesale and disgraceful peculation, as that of Burke for cowardly and sneaking murder. And like master, like man: the subordinate rebels followed eagerly in the footsteps of their thieving leaders, and a universal "game of grab" was with them the order of the day. They "stuck at nothing," though, unhappily, much stuck to them; and could the mischievous postage-stamps hope to escape their too evident fate? Thousands upon thousands of them were in the hands of postmasters in the seceded States at the commencement of the rebellion, "charged" to them on the books of the Department, but, alas! not paid for: With a very few honorable exceptions, those seceding postmasters have hitherto failed to account for or return the stamps thus in their possession; and it is to guard against the consequent loss which would otherwise accrue to the Government, that the old issue has been summarily recalled from circulation, and rendered useless to the holders after a certain time. It is to be hoped that this explanation of the motives for the change will be satisfactory to those who have imagined it to be a mere caprice of the Department, and enable loyal citizens to bear with equanimity the trifling vexation and inconvenience which it has entailed upon them.

At the New York office, the exchange of stamped envelopes commenced on the 6th of August; and there were received during the time specified for redemption 240,000 of all sizes and denominations. Of the stamps, the exchange of which began on the 16th, there were received in value about \$21,000 of all denominations—a much less number than would have been received but for the fact that for some time previously the public had been anticipating the recall of the old issue, and had purchased only in sufficient quantities to supply their immediate wants, and thus avoided, to a considerable extent, the necessity for the exchange. Mr. Taylor, the Postmaster, had made every preparation, and availed himself of every facility of which the very limited proportions of the building were capable for accommodating the public. An office contiguous to that for the sale of stamps was set apart exclusively for the exchange business, and all necessary arrangements were made to insure the greatest possible degree of dispatch and promptitude.

But by a concatenation of unfortunate circumstances, not necessary to enumerate here, the

first commercial city of the Union is provided with a post-office building by no means commensurate, either in size or appearance, with its own importance or the wants of its inhabitants; and with all the precautions which the postmaster was enabled to take to conduct the business with as little inconvenience to the public as circumstances would admit, it proved a somewhat vexatious and wearisome undertaking.

At the first opening of the door leading to the "exchange" office, there was a "rush" of some hundreds of people; and during the first six days a line reaching from the head of the staircase, across the Cedar-street front of the office to Nassau street, might have been seen awaiting, with what degree of patience and philosophy they could muster for the occasion, their "turn." In that line, no social grade of the population of the city was unrepresented.—Bankers were there, and merchants—lawyers also—but the great majority was composed of the irrepressible rising generation, interspersed with a good proportion of porters of the Irish, German, and colored persuasions—the whole formed temporarily into a compact little republic, where all were on a footing of the most perfect equality, and having for sole constitution and law the briefest of edicts—"first come, first served"—a most equitable rule, which few attempted to violate, and the execution of which was enforced by themselves, aided, if need be, by the P. O. official (office B.) whose duty it is to guard the outer portion of the building.

An individual, taking his post in the line, generally occupied from an hour and a half to two hours and a half in reaching the office for exchange; but it may be mentioned that about one-third of those who thus consumed their sometimes valuable time, did so without the slightest necessity. The notice issued by the Postmaster, in accordance with instructions from the Department, stated that "after the expiration of six days from the date thereof, the old issue of stamps would not be received in payment of postage." This course gave six days in which they could be received, and yet, on the first day, scores of people waited for two hours and upwards, in not the most comfortable of positions, to exchange half a dozen or less old stamps for new, to be used on that day! It was in vain that they were told of the unnecessary trouble they were taking—either from choice or through incredulity, they obstinately insisted on pursuing their slow and tedious journey, with a devotion worthy of a better cause.

Two clerks were assigned to the onerous duties of making the exchanges—and the post was no sinecure. It had been requested that the various denominations should be placed in separate envelopes by those desirous of exchanging, and the request was very generally complied with; but the fact that some neglected to do so, caused considerable delay. At best, it was necessarily a rather slow process—most of the stamps had been cut up singly by their holders for the sake of greater convenience in their use, and the counting of these (often in lots of 500 or 600) of course consumed considerable time—particularly in case of a discrepancy between the actual number and that marked on the envelope, in which event a second count became necessary. Some, too, had held their stamps in their hands until the heat of their palms had dissolved the mucilage, and rendered them a solid mass, requiring some time and a good deal of patience to restore to a countable condition. Others, again, had secured their stamps in some profound recess in their garments, and kept two hundred persons waiting while they instituted a search, sometimes long, and not always successful. Some discovered that they had forgotten to bring their stamps at all; a few juvenile speculators, impressed with a vague idea that new stamps were to be had for old ones, had embraced the opportunity to collect numbers of canceled stamps, and presented them for exchange with that sublimely impudent air which none but a boy—and a New York boy—can assume. Men brought English, French, German, and Canadian stamps for exchange; and one intractable German exploded into violent wrath at not being able to obtain an equivalent for a dingy-looking "postmark" issued by a defunct private penny express. For the most part, the crowd was, as nearly all crowds are, exceedingly good-natured: now and then some sour-visaged individual, as he handed in his stamps, would accompany them with a dyspeptic malediction on the government—or a little squabble would arise in regard to a question of precedence in the line; but, on the whole, matters went off with commendable smoothness.

The "six days' grace" allowed by the notice was afterwards extended by the Postmaster to twelve; and many of those whom the portentous length of "the line" had scared off, availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded. But the great bulk of those in the hands of private individuals were exchanged during the first week, and at the present writing the business of exchanging stamps at the New York post office is virtually ended.

RATING FOREIGN LETTERS.—We call particular attention to the article headed "Rule of Rating Foreign Letters," on our fourth page. The scale of progression in rating letters to Great Britain, for instance, is so different from the rule applied to domestic letters, that the New York office is every day obliged to return letters for additional postage, or to allow them to go forward as unpaid letters—which is the rule when the postage is but partially paid. We supposed that the language of the article to which we refer was sufficiently explicit. But, owing to frequent inquiries made why a letter cannot be rated at 1½ oz, or 3½ oz, or any other fractional part of an ounce, we will again state that after the first ounce, the fraction is rated as a full ounce. And, through fear that the above may not be understood, we will quote the following from the "Details of the Postal Treaty with Great Britain":—

"For every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, one single rate; above half an ounce, but not exceeding one ounce, two rates; above one ounce, but not exceeding two ounces, four rates; above two ounces, but not exceeding three ounces, six rates; above three ounces, but not exceeding four ounces, eight rates;—and so on, two rates being added for every ounce, or fraction of an ounce." As a rate is twenty-four cents to Great Britain, the calculation is simple.

Traveling Grievances.

In the possession of the Chief of Police is a gallery of photographic portraits of more or less notorious thieves, housebreakers, &c., whose physiognomies being thus accessible to public inspection, may easily be recognized, when occasion requires, as belonging to characters either to be avoided, or to be dealt with as penal justice may demand.

There is a class of offenders, not against the law, but against the minor morals of society,—sinners against the comfort and convenience and refined feelings of their fellow-beings, who richly merit some such "bad eminence" as is accorded to the graver offenders above mentioned; and we hardly think we are transgressing our bounds as a guardian of the public interest in one department, if now and then we cast a glance upon another, which in many ways is intimately connected with it, and attempt to furnish pen-and-ink portraits of some beings and doings and things to be endured if we must, to be avoided if we can, and to be done away with, if that is possible.

It is of traveling grievances that we wish to speak, and in the enumeration which we may make, and the censures we may utter, we are sure of the sympathy (would we could say of the relief) of most of the traveling public. We will begin with—

The Woman who opens Windows.

Whether there is anything in the female anatomical structure which imperatively requires a perpetual stream of cold air upon the face and chest, our scientific knowledge does not enable us to determine. It has, however, been our frequent and unhappy experience to be awakened from a half-conscious state, while wearily journeying in a railroad car, by a sudden torrent of wintry air, which has penetrated our wrappings, and aroused us to a cold and miserable consciousness that an air-loving female had taken possession of the seat before us, and raised the adjacent window. The usual result to us of this little experiment is a cough of some weeks' standing, accompanied with a strong tendency to anatomize those members of the fair sex who inflict catarrhs upon their neighbors merely to suit their own convenience. In our speculations upon this intricate and mysterious subject, we have sometimes thought that this window-opener was a secret agent for Cherry Pectoral or Catarrh Snuff, charged with the duty of disseminating pulmonary complaints as widely as possible, for the good of trade. One likes to be a free agent, even in breathing, and we do not relish ventilation upon compulsion. As long as cars are provided with efficient arrangements for ventilation, (which is now the case on most railroads,) the opening of windows in cold weather, and at a dusty time, is, to say the least, an act of supererogation, and we would suggest the construction of windowless cars for the express accommodation of those who are fond of Boreal blasts, that they may be aired to their heart's content.

Another traveling nuisance is the Tobacco-chewer. He is ubiquitous. He pervades the universe, and it is probably as absurd to expect that he and his quid and the consequent expectoration will ever cease from decent society, as to anticipate a deliverance from the plague of flies. But we should feel no small satisfaction if we could make him realize that he is a nuisance. He sometimes spits out of the window, (if it happens to be open, and he still retains some glimmerings of propriety,) and thus adorns the outside of the car with streaks of a brown pigment, which materially alters the effect of any pictorial designs that may be painted upon the panels; but if no such opening offers itself, he embellishes the floor with water-colors, and rapidly produces a sketch which might be taken for a view of some Dismal Swamp or Dead Sea, the spent quids and other debris serving to represent decaying stumps. This illusion is further carried out by the odors proceeding from this work of art, which by no means resemble the gales wafted from "Araby the Best." The artist diligently pursues his occupation, now adding a stump, and now a fresh installment of coloring matter, and when he arrives at his journey's end, he leaves as a legacy to his successors a filthy pool, from which the grossest of porkers would turn away with disgust.

We leave our tobacco-chewing readers who may have been guilty of anything like what we have described, to imagine the feelings with which women, or men with any degree of refinement, must regard them and their works. And if the culprits themselves think our descriptions rather strong, we have only to say that they are no stronger than the practice at which they are aimed, for the offense in question "is rank, and it smells to heaven."

We have often wondered that railroad managers do not tempt this filthy class of travelers to exhibit some degree of decency, by providing a few spittoons, to be placed under their noses as soon as their disgusting habits are discovered.

LOVE TALKING.—The cars are often a favorite arena for the exercise of that right so especially dear to the female heart—the right to talk. Far be it from us to wish to restrain unduly our fellow-citizens and citizenesses in the use of that important, but too often unruly member, the tongue. We sometimes wish, indeed, that it had a more direct communication with the brain than in some cases it seems to have; for we acknowledge a horror of self-acting tongues—organs which move independent of idens, and serve only as exponents of the strength of the lungs which furnish the air to be cut up into words "full of sound and fury, and signifying nothing." But we do not insist that all talk shall be sensible, or instructive, or entertaining. We flatter ourselves that we are above the folly of such Utopian requirements. Nor do we insist that conversation in public vehicles shall be carried on in whispers, but we deprecate the speaking-trumpet style of social intercourse. This style, we grieve to say, is alarmingly prevalent, so far

as our somewhat extensive and unhappy experience enables us to judge. Pitt once remarked, "Confidence is a plant of slow growth," but in some specimens of humanity which have fallen under our observation, it seemed to be a vegetable of mushroom-like powers, stimulated to the extent of its capacity by the presence of strangers. The possessors of this trusting disposition make confidants of all within the reach of their voice. "No pent-up Utica contracts their powers," but all the occupants of the car are gratified with a circumstantial account of family or neighborhood transactions, and of such other events as will supply material to the tireless organ of sound. The cars may stop, but the train of words is not arrested. It may be "switched off" upon another track, but as long as fuel lasts, and the engineer is at his post, on it goes, dragging along a band of unwilling listeners.

The involuntary audience of these traveling Stentors is variously affected by their performances. The old stager, who knows by experience what to expect when the battery opens fire, folds his newspaper or closes his book in deperate resignation. The couple who are trying to carry on a quiet conversation, find it impossible to maintain their ground against the colloquial bolts which "fall heavy, one by one, like the first of a thunder-storm," and bring the peaceful *Ute-a-tle* to an untimely end.

Some unsophisticated beings are deluded into the belief that the possessor of such a voice must be a person of consequence somewhere, but by the majority of his fellow-passengers he is condemned out of his own mouth as a man of sound, rather than a sound man, and would never receive from them the encore which Bottom anticipated for his performance of the lion's part: "Let him roar again!"

There is an annoyance often experienced by steamboat-travelers, which we would touch upon before leaving our subject. Yet it deserves more than a touch,—rather an elaborate and scientific scolding. We allude to the very common practice, on the part of some inconsiderate persons, of "making night hideous" after the peaceable portion of the passengers have retired to rest, by loud talking and laughing, and the noisy demonstrations which accompany games of cards and the like. When one has endured the shadowy realms of Morpheus, it is no small vexation to be recalled to uneasy wakefulness by bursts of laughter, repeated just often enough to keep up the irritation, and one is disposed to convert Sancho Panza's "blessing on the man that first invented sleep," into a malediction on the thoughtless persons who are murdering it. We do not accuse them of "malice aforethought," but of no forethought at all. If we were statistically inclined, we might calculate how many hours of rest are lost by a cabin full of passengers by the boisterousness of some half a dozen unquiet spirits. But figures are needless. Facts are sufficient, which we commend to the reflection of those whom it may concern.

Post Office Trials.

THE FALMOUTH CASE.—Under this caption, we gave, in a former number, a sketch of the trial of Joseph S. Hewins, in the U. S. Court in Boston, charged with having stolen from the mail a package containing \$5,000, mailed at Falmouth, Mass. The disagreement of the jury on that trial was also mentioned.

The Grand Jury recently in session in Boston, again found true bills, not only in the case of J. S. Hewins, but also against his brother, Henry C. Hewins, and Erastus O. Parker, the late postmaster at Monmouth, Mass.

These trials will no doubt take place either jointly or separately, at the October term of the U. S. Circuit Court, in Boston.

THE BRENDED LETTER.—The trial of Van Epps, formerly a clerk in the Schenectady (N. Y.) Post Office, for embezzling letters while employed in that office, is expected to take place in Albany at the October term of the U. S. Court. This is the singular case to which we have already made some brief allusion, though we gave no names or localities.

While Van Epps was a clerk in the above-named post office, several money letters were mislaid, but no suspicions were entertained towards him until one day the wife of the postmaster, with whom he boarded, discovered in his room the charred remains of what she considered a letter, and which a further and more careful examination proved to be a part of a letter and envelope deposited in the Schenectady Post Office that very day. What was most singular, although they were partially consumed, the portions of the address and signature, and the post-mark, were quite legible, and served in finding the writer, and establishing the essential fact that the letter was intended to have been conveyed by mail.

The young man was soon after arrested, and subsequently admitted that he no doubt carried that letter to his room, but that he must have picked it up in the office by mistake, instead of one he had that day received from a young lady!

At the August term of the U. S. Court at Auburn, this case came before the Grand Jury, and resulted in the indictment of Van Epps. The principal witness against him was the faithful wife of the postmaster, with whom the young man was a favorite. Although pained by the unfortunate discovery she had made, she nevertheless felt it her duty to give it all necessary publicity, and to add her testimony to that of others, before the proper tribunal. It is sad to state that her journey to Auburn, and the reluctant discharge of her duty in connection with this case, was among the last of her earthly labors. She took a sudden cold, which brought on a severe illness, which resulted fatally on the 7th September—making another sad chapter in the history of this somewhat remarkable case.

It now remains to be seen whether the death of this important witness will not render the conviction of Van Epps impossible.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

No Money Sent.

We have to record another of those disgraceful cases of false pretence (the term is altogether too mild), which are so often brought to light in post-office experience.

A Broadway jeweler recently called at the New York Post Office to announce "another daring robbery of the mail." A letter had been mailed to him at a neighboring office, enclosing the sum of \$108 50. The letter "reached," but "nary a bank-note did it contain." The Secretary asked the usual questions in order to ascertain the material points in the case, previous to an investigation.

The complainant, it appeared, had sold a young man a watch and chain, and allowed the property to be taken away, after consulting certain references tendered by the purchaser, on condition that the cash should be remitted by mail within a given time. Here was the letter and envelope, the latter having been, in the opinion of the confiding merchant, "clearly violated" before it reached his hands. "On the whole," added our somewhat excited friend, addressing the Special Agent, who had happened to come in just in time for the "sunning up," "there can be little doubt that the money was taken here in this office—the distance is so short, you know, and as the letter would not have been in the mailing office but a few moments before the mail left, according to the statement of my correspondent. Here is his letter on the subject." Experience in this class of cases had convinced us that letter-writing is quite as dangerous an operation for a dishonest correspondent as for an aspiring politician; and this led to a somewhat critical inspection of the phrasing of the explanatory epistle. It ran as follows:

"Messrs. J. C. A. & Co. —
"GENTLEMEN, I am glad to be able to show you that I am worthy of the good endorsement of the acquaintances in New York, to whom I referred you, on purchasing the watch (which, by the way, proves all that I could wish, by now enclosing the amount of the bill, \$108 50. Promptness, no less than consistency, is a jewel, which you, as a jeweler, will doubtless appreciate. I send the largest notes I have been able to obtain; and as our postmaster is entirely out of postage-stamps, I am compelled to send the odd change in specie. I suppose it was unnecessary, but I have kept the numbers of bank-bills remitted herewith. I hear of no trouble with the mails on this route, though I see by the papers that mail robberies are quite frequent elsewhere. Please receipt the bill, and return by next mail.
"Hoping this will reach you safely, and that you shall yet know more of each other in a business way, I remain
"Yours truly,
"M—F—"

"Murder will out," and so often will fraudulent post office transactions like the one we are considering. The allusion to frequent mail robberies elsewhere, and the statement about retaining the numbers of the notes, were significant points; but there was yet another more conclusive, and which at once fastened the guilt in the right direction, and at the same time vindicated the character of the postmasters and their clerks. Our friend who had gone "on tick" for the watch, had failed to corroborate that part of his story relating to the enclosure of "fifty cents in specie," by paying the proper postage which such a remittance would require. He had paid but three cents, as the envelope of "the rifled letter" shew, whereas the rate should have been six cents, had the amount been enclosed in the form stated. He had been caught in his own trap—a fact too palpable when explained to the dealer in watches, to admit of a doubt that he had been sold as well as the watch. He was advised in regard to the proper course to be pursued, in order to bring out the truth, and secure the payment of his claim.

The attempted swindle was subsequently confessed, and the only real damage sustained fell where it properly belonged.

Those who contemplate a resort to similar dodges by means of the mails and post offices, should be careful to cover up their tracks, if they can, a little more effectually than was done in the instance here mentioned.

Editor of United States Mail.
Is it lawful for a clerk in a post office to write on the envelopes of letters addressed to persons of his acquaintance, which were written by others, and deposited in the office in which he is clerk to be mailed or distributed, such messages as the following: "Respects of G. H.," "Kind regards of G. A.," "All well, and doing finely," and other longer and shorter sentences?
Please answer in the MAIL, and oblige, respectfully, yours,
INQUIRER.

The practice of making such written endorsements on post-bills, letters, or wrappers, is entirely irregular, and not to be tolerated; and it is the duty of postmasters to report all such cases to the Department, if it is repeated, after a proper admonition, so that the plea of ignorance on the part of persons thus offending cannot be interposed. Post-office clerks have no rights or privileges as correspondents that are not enjoyed by other classes, and they should be the last to set improper or illegal examples.

SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.—The total amount of postage stamps sold at the New York post office, during the quarter ending Sept. 30th, was \$136,325 54. Stamped envelopes, \$18,950 09. Total, \$155,275 63.

As compared with the amount of stamps sold in the corresponding quarter of 1869, there is a falling off of \$45,353 08,—while the increase in the amount of stamped envelopes sold, by a comparison of the two quarters, is \$2,207 45.

A Connecticut postmaster, subscribing for the U. S. MAIL, signs himself "A Lone Democratic P. M., but one of the Gen. Dix and Butler Stamp." If that is his stamp, he is not "a lone."

[Advertisement.]
Hon. HORATIO KINKO will attend to business before the Post Office and other Executive Departments, at Washington, D. C.

THE PORTRAITS.—We occasionally receive orders for the proposed gallery of Portraits of the Postmasters-General, advertised in the MAIL for some months past. Thus far, the applications have not been sufficient to warrant the expense of engraving the four new Portraits needed to complete the series of twenty-one. If the Gallery is not published, all ensh subscriptions which have been, or may be sent in, will be returned.

List of Post-Offices Discontinued, From the 1st March to the 1st September, 1861.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Hannah Bottom	Hardy	Va.
Green Bottom	Cabell	Va.
Lewisville	Niagara	N. Y.
Waltonham	St. Louis	Mo.
Walley's Store	London	Va.
Camden	Madison	Mo.
Armingville	Lancaster	Pa.
Diapath	New Kent	Va.
Brown's Creek	Harrison	Mo.
Rock Ridge	Mississippi	Mo.
Central	Linn	Mo.
Glebe Cottage	Alexandria	Va.
Bridgville	Bracken	Ky.
Chickies	Lancaster	Pa.
Clinton	Clinton	Mo.
Millback	Cherokee	Mo.
Decapolis	Madison	Va.
Dallasburg	Owen	Ky.
Crawfordsville	Loyd	Ind.
Rock Wolf	Winchester	Pa.
Chester	Rice	Miss.
Perkuville	Henoepin	Pa.
Mascotink	Chicago	Ill.
Ducan's Mills	Scott	Va.
Montauk	Lancaster	Pa.
Carroll Mines	Union	Ky.
Round Stone	Rock Castle	Va.
Reno	Cumberland	Pa.
Lillyow	Cedar	Iowa
Maple Ford	Laclede	Mo.
Hinsdale	Berkshire	Mass.
Happy Creek Station	Warren	Va.
Romies Mills	Harrison	Mo.
Casey's Store	Preston	Ky.
Algonia	Winchester	Pa.
West Mission	Brown	Va.
New Creek Station	Hampshire	Va.
Romney	Howard	Md.
Papier Spring	Carroll	Md.
Waterville	Carroll	Md.
Saloma	Taylor	Ky.
Farmington	Marion	Va.
Valley Falls	Marshall	W. Va.
Rock Valley	Butler	Neb.
Susqueannah	El Dorado	Cal.
Yeomertown	Montgomery	Ky.
Mount Ida	Harrison	Va.
New Salem	Ingham	Mich.
Peal Shoote	Alexander	Ill.
Camp Defiance	Dallas	Mo.
Shady Grove	Keanebeck	Me.
West Sidney	Upate	Va.
Marple's Store	Harrison	Mo.
Lost Creek	Marion	Va.
Barracksville	Allegheny	Md.
Rawling's Station	Cabell	Va.
Cabell C. H.	Jessamine	Va.
Jessamine	Lawrence	Ind.
Peach	Winchester	Pa.
Pin Hook	Franklin	Mo.
Gray's Summit	Moscow	Ind.
Moscow	Clay	Iowa
Lambic	Wood	Ind.
Spencer	Wood	Ind.
New England	Marion	Va.
Deer Walk	Moanongalia	Va.
Lintonville Hill	Dixon	Neb.
Beard's Ferry	Josephine	Oregon
Miracle Run	Saxess	Del.
Activity	Summit	Ohio
Williamsburgh	McLeod	Minn.
Belleville	Wyzata	Hempden
Horse's Cross Roads	Sandy Furnace	Pa.
Boston	Morland	Pa.
Freemont	Derricks's Cross Roads	Worcester
Wyzata	Jellison	Ill.
Sandy Furnace	Brayville	Ind.
Morland	Locustville	Ind.
Derricks's Cross Roads	Loog Laae	Ind.
Jellison	Collin's Grove	Iowa
Brayville	Diane	Ind.
Locustville	Fair Point	Ind.
Loog Laae	Jasper	Ind.
Collin's Grove	Vineyard Mills	Pa.
Diane	Shady Grove	Ky.
Fair Point	Forest Retreat	Nicholas
Jasper	Santa Fe	Bracken
Vineyard Mills	Ira	Ill.
Shady Grove	Oro	Adams
Forest Retreat	Hoyle	Mass.
Santa Fe	Hoyle	Ogle
Ira	Town Mount	Fraoklin
Oro	Turkey Creek	Neh.
Hoyle	Worralton	Nevada
Town Mount	Brown	Ohio
Turkey Creek	Sibley	Minn.
Worralton	Lewis	Mo.
Brown	Muskleburg	Tenn.
Sibley	Ladlow	Ohio
Lewis	Osgo Fork	Mo.
Muskleburg	Whitelyville	N. Y.
Ladlow	Onoata Plains	Pa.
Osgo Fork	Freemont	Pa.
Whitelyville	Kantle	Pa.
Onoata Plains	Muhlenburgh	Ky.
Freemont	Whitesides	Ill.
Kantle	Pond River Mills	Pa.
Muhlenburgh	Summit Hill	Pa.
Whitesides	Lara	Pa.
Pond River Mills	Achey's Corner	Pa.
Summit Hill	Toga Valley	Pa.
Lara	Hackensville	Pa.
Achey's Corner	Glymont	Pa.
Toga Valley	Lyra	Pa.
Hackensville	Morgan Washington	Pa.
Glymont	Buckeye	Pa.
Lyra	Roseville	Pa.
Morgan Washington	Jack's Creek	Pa.
Buckeye	Westland	Pa.
Roseville	West Chize	Pa.
Jack's Creek	Birning	Pa.
Westland		
West Chize		
Birning		

List of Post Offices, The NAMES of which have been CHANGED, From the 1st March to the 1st September, 1861.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	TO
New Erie	Stephenson	Ill.	Eletry
Mont Vernon	Monroe	Va.	Maple Lawn
Ninnesaw Mine	Ontonagon	Mich.	Nancy
Wassleford	Hampshire	Va.	Rees Tannery
Roanoke	Ya.	Catawba	
Little Sandio	Mason	Mich.	Lincoln
Cook's Station	Elkhart	Ind.	Millsburg
Hecla	Schuykill	Pa.	New Ringgold
Forest	Genesee	Mich.	Oshtemo
Clarkson Centre	Monroe	N. Y.	Hannin
Emerald Point	Morgan	Ill.	Frontice
Lockland	Hamilton	Ohio	Lockland Station
Ladrop Lako	Susquehanna	Pa.	Elk Lako (Co.)
Janosowa	Howard	Iowa	Hickville, Minn.
Catawissa	Franklin	Mo.	Robertville
Simpson	Plymouth	Mass.	Marion
Davis	Carver	Ky.	East Valley
Carver	Del.	Hannanville	
Whitelyburgh	Keupont	Pa.	Duane
Ochardville	Keupont	Pa.	Hannanville
West Wheeling	Cook	Ill.	Hannanville
Perrin's Bridge	Ular	N. Y.	Ritton Glen
Jordan	Hancock	Ind.	Rowey's Store
Chillicothe	Coe	Ind.	Mount Gillet
Walker	Anderson	Kan.	Mount Gillet
Woodland	Clarendon	Pa.	Williams Grove
Complander	Seneca	N. Y.	Claryville
Hillsdale Depot	Berkshire	Mass.	Hillsdale
Houck's Store	Carroll	Md.	Armacost's Store
Chillicothe	Howard	Ind.	Hickville
West Northfield	Butler	Ill.	The Grove
Snyder's Corner	Butler	Ill.	Union Corner
Tallow Hill	Jefferson	Pa.	Claryville
Merwinville	Cambria	Pa.	Conmarnagh (Co.)
Pershing	Carroll	Md.	Hickville
Mount Airy	Accomac	Va.	Claryville
Wagman	Madison	Ky.	Waco (ter Co.)
Elliston	Buchanan	Iowa	Whitrop
Pine	Chattanooga	N. Y.	Kennedy
Falcons	Washington	D. C.	Brightwood
Oak Grove	Erie	Iowa	Ward's Corners
Erie	San Juan	Mich.	Orgin Jefferson
San Juan City			

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	TO
Hoover's Point	Macoupin	Ill.	Elroy
Becker's Station	Starbuck	Mich.	Helford Centre
Valley Forge	Pulaski	Ill.	Villa Ridge
East Pierpont	St. Lawrence	N. Y.	Killbuck
Arthur's House	Franklin	N. Y.	Merillville
Artilleryville	Del.	Daviesville	
West Hillborn	Del.	Daviesville	
Burling Spring	Wirt	Va.	Rathbone
State Ridge	York	Va.	Constitution
McClintock	Perry	W. Va.	Penick
Bear Creek	Monongomery	Ill.	Donnellson
Heligwan	Hoosier	Col.	Danvers
Albany	Isabella	Mich.	Isabella City
Milton Station	Wood	Pa.	Milton Centre
Owasco	Sullivan	Mo.	Pleasantville
Hillsboro	Johnson	Kan.	Lanesfield
Sutton	Merrimack	N. H.	South Station
Kilnsmoak	Paraguan	Mo.	Mofford
Smuckers Spring	Beauregard	N. Y.	Louis's Corners
Boston Corners	Columbia	Pa.	Louis's Corners
Harmory	Kent	Md.	Louis's Corners
Criville	Del.	Delaware	
Seaford	Del.	Delaware	
Davis	Douglas	Ky.	Wooling Springs
Park's House	Pleer	Col.	Danvers
Whitburg	Camden	Mo.	Bullinger's Creek
Mount Campbell	York	Pa.	Mount Well
Waymanville	Bartholomew	Ind.	Mount Well
East Hillborn	Franklin	N. Y.	Helford Centre
Springville	Wayne	Ohio	Lincoln
Palge City	Unknown	Col.	Lincoln City
Fortville	Green	Pa.	Green
Licking Station	Unknown	Ky.	Salyersville
Croyhau	Allira	Ohio	Balfour
Hamblin	Hamilton	Pa.	Hamblin
Humburg	Livingston	Mich.	Walker's Mills
Humburg	York	Pa.	Humburg
Portland	Blaine	Me.	Winnfield
Delaware	Blue Earth	Vernon	Verona Centre
New Hope	Delaware	Ind.	Ind.
Delaware	Delaware	Ind.	Delaware
Toronto	Contra	Mo.	Glen City

Post Office Items.

FORWARDING LETTERS.
Some Postmasters, judging from inquiries, have overlooked Section 63 of the Regulations, respecting forwarding letters. When a letter or package is by mistake at the mailing office, sent to the wrong office, it is to be forwarded without additional postage. But when the address has been correctly followed, and a request is made to forward, then the regular postage is to be prepaid, or paid on delivery.

The laws of Congress do not extend any legal protection to letters before they are placed in a post office, or letter box legally established as a depository for letters. Under the decision of the Courts, the purloining of a letter by a person authorized by the owner, to take it from the post office, is not punishable under the United States statutes, unless it can be satisfactorily shown that the guilty party acted with felonious intent, at the time of applying for the letter.

When a letter is, by mistake or owing to duplicate name, delivered to the wrong person, it should be immediately returned to the post office with a verbal explanation, and not be dropped into the letter box. But when the address has been correctly followed, and a request is made to forward, then the regular postage is to be prepaid, or paid on delivery.

The name of the writer or firm, written or printed on the letter, is an advantage in case of miscarriage, or misdirection.

When there are good grounds for believing that letters are opened and read from motives of enmity, complaint should be made in writing to the Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department, Washington.

A secret plan for the certain detection of Chief delinquents has recently been devised.

Experience has shown that locked letter boxes or drawers opening on the outside, especially in cities and large towns, are depositories of letters, especially those containing articles of value.

No letters should be given to Route Agents upon the cars or stambots, except such as cannot be written before the closing of the mail at the post office. Under no circumstances can Route Agents receive letters that are not pre-paid by stamps.

If the writer of a letter wishes his letter to reach its destination without being subject to the rules of distribution, he should be sure to have the distribution office, he has only to write upon the outside, "Mail direct," and the wrapper will not be removed until it reaches the office for which the letter is designed.

Costly and delicate articles of jewelry or other valuables, should not be placed in a letter, as they are liable to serious injury in the process of stamping.

This is a violation of law to enclose a letter or other thing or to make any memorandum in writing, or to prytany word or communication, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, in which the name and address of the person to whom it is to be sent, subjects the package to letter postage.

Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marks, or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, which subjects the package to letter postage, is illegal, and subjects such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

Postage cannot be pre-paid on regular newspapers or periodicals, for a less term than one quarter; and in all cases postage on such matter, on such matter at the commencement of a quarter.

Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be remailed without being chargeable with postage.

The proper mode of rating postage on music, is by the piece, without regard to the number of sheets in a piece, or the number of parts, but not exceeding three ounces in weight; for each piece exceeding three ounces in weight, one cent should be charged for the first three ounces, and one cent additional for each ounce or fraction of an ounce.

On the same principle packages of "playing cards" are rated by the package, and not by the single card.

Where packages of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office, they should be addressed, and the names of the club of subscribers to which they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance, shall be handed to the postmaster, he shall deliver the same to their respective owners. But this does not apply to weekly newspapers, which circulate free in the county where printed and published.

The postage on all transient printed matter, foreign or domestic must be prepaid by stamps.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
1. **FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MAILS.**—Newspapers, periodicals, books, without regard to weight, pamphlets and periodicals, two cents each if not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if exceeding two ounces; which is the United States postage only, but pamphlets weighing over eight ounces, or periodicals weighing over sixteen ounces, are chargeable with letter postage. Books and all other descriptions of printed matter, are subject to letter rate of postage. Neither pamphlets, nor periodicals are entitled to conveyance in the British mail, through England, to countries on the Continent of Europe.

gally over their routes and by their conveyances.
Letters contained in "Government envelopes" with the stamp printed thereon, can go in or out of the mail by any person or conveyance. But the same must be clearly addressed in ink, and the date of sending written or printed thereon.
MAIL BAGS.
For stealing or improperly converting any mail bags, either with or without locks, or selling the same, three years imprisonment.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid), excepting those to officers of the government, leaving the franking privilege, and on official business, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, pre-payment in money being prohibited.

Prepayment on drop letters is required. The rate of letter postage between offices in the United States, and to and from Canada and other British North American Provinces:
Letters weighing one half ounce or under, to United States offices, being single rate, will be charged as follows:
For any distance not over 3,000 miles, 3 cts.
For any additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged, for distance not over 3,000 miles, 10 cts.
For any distance over 3,000 miles, 15 cts.
For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged, as follows:
California letters (distance being over 3,000 miles) are chargeable with the two cent rate of postage, and must be prepaid.

All drop letters, or letters placed in any post office, for transmission, but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of one cent each.
Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever.
Dangerous letters when sent in the mail, are to be charged with letter postage by weight.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

Postage on Daily Papers to subscribers, when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, per quarter, (3 months) is 20 cts. For Weekly " " " " " 15 " " " " " 13 " " " " " 6 1/2 "

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS weighing not more than one and a half ounces, when circulated in the United States, shall be charged with one half the above rates.

SMALL NEWSPAPERS, published monthly or oftener, and Pamphlets containing not more than 10 octavo pages each, when sent in packages weighing not less than 8 ounces, to one address, and prepaid by affixing postage stamps thereon, shall be charged only half a cent per ounce, or fraction of an ounce.

PUBLISHERS OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS may send to each other from their respective offices of publication free of postage, one copy of each publication, to be prepaid by postage stamps and receipts, inclosed in their publications, bills and receipts for the same, free of postage.

BOOKS, bound or unbound, not weighing over four pounds, shall be deemed suitable matter, and shall be charged with postage at one cent an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, for all distances under 3,000 miles, at two cents per ounce for all distances over 3,000 miles.

CIRCULARS.—Unsealed circular, advertisement, business card, unsent newspaper, and every other article, to be prepaid by postage stamps, except such as small publications, as above, not weighing over three ounces, sent in the mail to any part of the United States, are chargeable with one cent postage each, and one cent additional for each ounce or fraction of an ounce.

When more than one circular is printed on a sheet, or a circular and letter, each must be charged with a single rate. A business card, or the name of the sender, on an unsealed envelope of a circular, subject the entire package to letter postage.

To inclose or conceal a letter or other thing, except bills and receipts for subscription to, or to write or print anything, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, in which the name and address of the person to whom it is to be sent, subjects the package to letter postage.

Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marks, or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, which subjects the package to letter postage, is illegal, and subjects such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

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2. **TO OR FROM FRANCE, ALGERIA, OR IN THROUGH MAIL, OR VIA ENGLAND.**—Newspapers, periodicals, books, without regard to weight, pamphlets, catalogues, papers of music, prospectuses, circulars, and all other kinds of printed matter addressed to France, Algeria, or cities of Turkey, Syria, and Egypt in which France has post offices, (viz: Alexandria, Alexandria, Beyrou, Constantinople, Dardanelles, Galatz, Gallipoli, Ithraia, Ineboli, Jaffa, Kerassund, Latakia, Messina, in Asiatic Turkey, Mylene, Rhodes, Salonica, Smyrna, Suez, Suias, Sultia, Tripoli, Tunis, in Syria, Utluba, Varna, and Volo) can be despatched to France direct, or by way of England, on prepayment of the United States postage, viz: newspapers, one cent each; periodicals, two cents each; and all other kinds of printed matter the same as domestic rates; to be in all cases collected in the United States, whether sent or received in the British mail, and to be collected in its own postage on all kinds of printed matter, whether sent or received.

3. **TO OR FROM THE GERMAN-AUSTRIAN POSTAL UNION, IN THE PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL.**—Newspapers sent in the Prussian closed mail, chargeable with a postage of six cents each, prepayment compulsory, but in all to destination in any part of the German Austrian Postal Union. Newspapers received come fully prepaid at same rate

UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. II.

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1861.

No. 2.

For the U. S. Mail. The Lost Letter. A TALE OF THE MEXICAN WAR.

In the early summer of 1846, the city of D—, in Ohio, was, in common with the whole country, and more particularly the West, in a ferment of excitement, consequent upon the recent war proclamation of President Polk, and the call for volunteers to avenge the invasion of our lately acquired territory of Texas by its old enemies, the Mexicans. The eager response to that appeal is one of the brightest chapters in our national history. The present glorious uprising of the people, in defence of the old flag, against the traitors who seek its downfall, is scarcely more prompt and spontaneous than was the answer to the demands then made by the country on the patriotism of her sons. The Buckeyes of Ohio were by no means dilatory in filling up the quota of men which the State was required to furnish, and the city of D— supplied more than its full share. The war-fever seized upon me. I resigned a good situation; and, having had some considerable experience in the uniformed militia, I soon found myself engaged as a non-commissioned officer in initiating a squad of sturdy, though rather awkward volunteers into the mysteries of the "facings" and the "manual."

While thus engaged, one day, shortly before our departure to participate in the prospective "revel in the halls of the Montezumas," my old friend, Charley Howard, and desired a word with me. Thinking that his object was a renewal of an attempt he had already frequently made to dissuade me from my purpose of "going for a sojourn," I anticipated what he was about to say:

"It is no use, Charley! I'm bound to go; you may as well save your arguments; my mind is made up, and nothing you can say will change it."

"I know it," he answered; "and it is not of that I have come to speak. But what if my mind has changed?"

"What do you mean?"

"I mean that if you are resolved to desert your old chum, I am resolved not to be deserted; I am going with you."

"You!" I exclaimed. "For what reason?"

"Ungrateful man!" said he, with a forced laugh, "haven't I told you that I can't bear the idea of a separation from you? Reason, indeed! You're a nice soldier, too, to ask a man to give a reason for wishing to serve his country! Come, where's the muster-roll?"

I endeavored to induce him to take a little more time to consider the matter; told him that there was no hurry; that he could wait at least a day or two; but all to no purpose. I could not make him talk seriously on the subject at all. He insisted on signing the roll at once, "for fear," as he said, "that his patriotism should come out at his fingers' ends, like Bob Acres' courage, before to-morrow."

Notwithstanding this assumed levity, I was sure something of a very serious nature must have occurred to induce Charley to take this step. He had, not long before, been appointed assistant to the postmaster at D—, with a good salary, and was the chief support of a widowed mother. Moreover, he had told me, in confidence, but a short time before, that Mary M., one of the prettiest girls in D—, to whom I knew he was engaged, had consented to name a not very distant day for their union. I could only account for his sudden determination by the supposition that she had jilted him,— "going to the wars" being the conventional *denier resoit* of discarded lovers from time immemorial; but I thought it scarcely probable. At any rate, whatever the reason might be, I felt that I was entitled, on the score of our old friendship, to know it; and, at the first opportunity, I insisted upon an explanation, which he at last gave me.

It appeared that the firm of C. & H., then largely engaged in the forwarding trade in D—, had, as they alleged, enclosed two hundred dollars, in bank-notes, to their correspondent in Cincinnati, and mailed the same in the D— Post Office, since which time nothing had been heard of either letter or money. On the day it should have reached Cincinnati, the correspondent had taken his letters from the post office with his own hands; and though among them was one from C. & H., in reference to a different matter, the one containing the enclosure was missing; nor could any trace of it be found. Messrs. C. & H. produced the affidavit of their corresponding clerk, testifying to the contents and direction of the letter, and to the fact of his having delivered it personally, with others, into the hands of Howard, who stated that he remembered perfectly the circumstance of receiving them, but could not recall the particular address of any among them. C. & H. did not hesitate to express their belief that Howard had appropriated the contents of the letter; and even the postmaster, who had always entertained the greatest confidence in his integrity, and would have been slow to believe anything to his prejudice, yielded, at last, a sort

of reluctant half concurrence in their suspicious; and an air of coldness and distrust took the place of the frankness and freedom which had previously marked his manner towards his assistant. Howard's proud spirit was stung deeply by this conduct. He inquired if he was suspected, but received only evasive answers, and a cold admonition to "be more careful in future."

"What could I do?" said Charley, as he related to me these circumstances. "God knows I am innocent; but how am I to prove it? I suppose I must have received the letter. The Cincinnati clerk says he remembers distinctly that but one letter came to that address from here on that day; and last night I discovered the postmaster watching me from a place of concealment while I was sorting the mail. I couldn't stand that—to be watched as a suspected thief; so I resigned at once. This is no place for me now. I couldn't bear to hear the thousand rumors which will be afloat in this gossiping town in less than a week. It's hard to leave my poor old mother, and—other friends, but it must be done; so the sooner we get our marching orders the better I shall be pleased."

I tried in vain to dissuade him from the course he had resolved upon; for I knew what misery his departure would bring to two loving hearts, whose happiness was all centred in him.

"Wait," said I—"wait patiently for a short time, and I am sure this mystery will be cleared up."

"I know it," said he. "I feel certain that God will not permit the innocent to suffer always; but do not ask me to remain here now. When I return, perhaps all will be right; it *must* be; but, in the mean time, it is useless for me to think of trying to live where there is the shadow of suspicion on my good name."

In another week we were at the Cincinnati rendezvous, and in a fortnight were steaming down the Mississippi to New Orleans, whence we embarked for the seat of war.

Howard made an excellent soldier. Attentive to his duty, always prompt and reliable,—these soldierly qualities gained him the confidence of the officers, and he was soon appointed a sergeant. But when off duty, he was usually moody and abstracted—rarely joining in any of the various amusements with which his comrades sought to vary the monotony of camp-life; and his taciturn, solitary habits gained him a reputation for unsociability. It was in vain that I attempted to convince him of the folly of brooding over the unfortunate event which had led to such a complete overthrow of all his plans and hopes, and worked such a change in his once frank and happy disposition. He seemed to be continually haunted by the recollection of the unjust suspicion cast upon his integrity; and though often struggling manfully to cast off the incubus which weighed so heavily upon him, he appeared to be sinking gradually into a settled melancholy. Occasionally, when the arrival of a courier with letters from home was announced, his whole manner would change; a sparkle would light up his face, and eager hope sparkle in his eyes, at the thought that perhaps among those letters might be one announcing the glad tidings of the vindication of his good name, by the solution of the mystery which had tarnished it. But though letters came, filled with words of love and tenderness, none brought the wished-for tidings; and at last the arrival of the courier seemed scarcely to interest him, heart-sick, as he was, with deferred hope.

Our regiment was attached to the column under the command of "Old Zack"; and, though arriving too late to share in the glories of Buena Vista, we had the honor of forming part of the little band who "stood before the iron hail" at Monterey, on the 23d of September, 1846. After an entrance within the city walls had been effected, came that terrible six hours of street-fighting as we pushed our way to the main plaza. The pavement was slippery with blood; our men fell at every step under the shower of balls which poured from windows and housetops, interspersed with paving-stones, bricks, and other missiles. In the course of this pleasant journey, I spied a truculent-looking "grouser" taking deliberate aim at me from an upper window; and, as my piece was unfortunately empty, I had made up my mind that, unless I should be able to "dodge" with unusual activity, I should probably be missing at next roll-call—when suddenly, the leveled musket came rattling down into the street, and my Mexican friend staggered forward, and hung half out of the window, pierced by a ball in the forehead from a musket fired over my shoulder. I turned to see who was the "friend in need" to whom I was indebted for this timely aid, and saw Howard calmly "tearing cartridge" for another shot, and contemplating, with a smile of grim satisfaction, the result of his last.

"I thank you, Charley," said I; "I do so much for you some day,"—and, as surrounding circumstances were not favorable to an extended conversation, I pushed on with my comrades, and soon, in the confusion of the fight, lost sight of him.

At last we reached the plaza; and soon even the obstinate Mexicans saw that further resistance was useless; and so yielded us the victory with as good a grace as could have been expected from them. Our loss was severe; and among the missing at roll-call was Howard. I went at once in search of him, and soon found him in the hospital to which our wounded had been conveyed. He had been struck by a musket-ball in the shoulder, which passing downward, had lodged in his chest. The surgeon pronounced his wound dangerous, and did not think it prudent to attempt the extraction of the ball, but stated that there was a possibility of his recovery. I obtained leave of absence, and for three days and nights I watched by the bedside of my friend. On the morning of the fourth day, after I had read to him, at his request, from the Bible his mother had placed in his knapsack on his departure, he said:

"George, I am going; I feel that I have not long to live; and oh, how hard it seems to die with that dark cloud upon my name! I did hope I should live to prove my innocence; but it was not to be! Go to my mother, when you return to D—, and tell her—"

"Two letters for Sergeant Howard," said one of the hospital assistants, depositing them upon the bed. Howard's eye glanced at the direction of one of them.

"Quick! quick!" he gasped—"give me that letter—it is from Mr. —, the postmaster,—no—read it to me, I cannot. Quick! quick!"

I tore the letter open, and read:

"DEAR HOWARD,—I have good news for you. The missing letter of C. & H. is found, with the money all safe. It had been directed to *Chillicothe*, instead of Cincinnati, and has just been returned from the Dead-Letter Office at Washington. Pray forgive my unjust suspicions of you. I have no time to say more. Wishing you a safe and speedy return from the war, I remain truly your friend,

I turned to Howard as I finished reading. He had closed his eyes, and a smile of perfect happiness was on his face—the first I had seen there for months.

"There, Charley," said I, "do you hear that? You mustn't talk of dying now, old fellow! We'll have you up and about in a fortnight; and, see! here's another letter—I'm sure it's from Mary. Shall I read that, too?"

He made no reply; but the smile remained on his lips. I looked at him a moment, and thought I perceived a strange alteration in his features. Hastily, I placed my hand upon his heart. It had ceased to beat!

From Lloyd's London Weekly Newspaper. Malversation of 1,500 Letters.

On Monday, Sept. 23, the most remarkable case of non-delivery and partial malversation of public letters that has occurred since the establishment of the General Post-office, was brought to light by the apprehension of a young man, nineteen years of age, who had been employed for the last twelve months on the Lombard-street and Fenchurch-street walks, one of the most commercially important and responsible districts connected with the General Post-office.

It appears that ever since April last, numerous representations from time to time reached the Missing Letter Department of the post-office from bankers, commercial firms, and companies in Lombard street and its neighborhood, stating that letters containing notes, cheques, advices, and correspondence, had not duly come to hand, and the authorities, although through their detectives and other officers exercising every vigilance, were altogether, until Monday, completely non-plussed, and at a total loss to account for their unusual non-arrival and non-delivery. From information received, Edward William Pullen, of 5, Mercer street, Shadwell, unmarried, and living with his parents there, was taken into custody, and the circumstances that led to his apprehension and to the subsequent discovery of wholesale detention of letters, are rather remarkable. A short time ago some notes were presented and cashed at the Bank of England, but these notes not having been received by the proper parties, notice of the non-receipt of them was communicated to the post-office, who gave intimation of it to the accountant of bank notes, who forwarded them for inspection to the post-office authorities, by whom it appears a well-founded suspicion was entertained that the detourment of the name and address upon the notes, although fictitious (the cash for them having been paid), was in the handwriting of the delinquent. On being apprehended on Monday, and brought before Mr. Pencock, the solicitor to the Post-office, and the other authorities, Pullen was requested to write his name and address upon paper, and on comparing it with the handwriting on the stolen and abstracted notes, the similarity was so self-evident that the authorities at once determined on detaining Pullen in custody. He was then searched by the officer, and on examining his pocket-book, two 5*l.* notes were found, that had been abstracted from a letter through the Norfolk post, addressed to Messrs. Hankeys, the bankers, in Fenchurch street, and which, in the usual course of things, should have been delivered at the bank ten days ago. On being asked how he came by these notes, Pullen replied: "I found them yesterday in Lombard street." Subsequently, the prisoner's cupboard, a receptacle that the letter-carriers have at the General Post-office to put their things in, was searched, and there, to the astonishment of the establishment, were found whole bundles of letters, containing not fewer than 1,500 in all, with dates and post-marks from all parts of the country as far back even as April and May, and extending over subsequent months up to within the last week, and which ought to have reached their destinations in the city. During the day they were immediately forwarded to their respective

addresses, to the no small surprise and perplexity of the parties who ought to have received them some months and weeks ago. Upwards of 100 letters, from amongst those that were impounded, were received by several commercial firms occupying chambers in St. Michael's house, George, wharf, Lombard street, belonging to Messrs. R. Smith & Co., East India merchants. Messrs. Alexander Milne & Co., and other firms, containing dock warrants, advices, and correspondence. Similar letters were delivered at the various banks, insurance, and other companies in Lombard street and the district. Elmslie, solicitor, of Lombard street, a dividend warrant for 50*l.*, in dividends, and numerous other remittances by other parties. There were also found between seventy and eighty letters addressed to barristers and solicitors in the Temple.

Pullen, it appears, was taken into the service in consequence of his respectability, and the satisfactory nature of his testimonials and antecedents. He received 18*s.* per week, and was employed in the ordinary collection and delivery business from five o'clock in the morning until six in the evening; but recently, by means of some arrangement with the other men, he had occasionally absented himself from his duties, indulging in billiards, skittles, and excursions on the river, and commenced the career of "a fast young man," latterly working only about eight hours a day, and going on some three or four deliveries, with which he was entrusted over men who had been for years in the service. Further inquiries have been set on foot to ascertain whether there are any accomplices connected with the extraordinary transaction.

On Tuesday, the accused was taken before the magistrates at Bow street, when, since the Post-office constable, deposed: I was present at the assistant's office, General Post-office, yesterday, when the prisoner was brought there on another inquiry, and I received orders to search him with his own consent. I found in the pocket of his official coat thirty-five post letters of various dates. He was asked how he accounted for having them in his pocket. He said some he had neglected to deliver, and some he had been unable to deliver. I also found in his trousers pocket a purse, which I now produce. I asked him what money it contained, and if it was his? He said, "Yes; it contained two 5*l.* notes, and 1*l.* 9*s.* in gold and silver," which was correct. Being asked where he got the notes, he said he found them two days ago, in Lombard street, lying loose with a letter which he produced. I have since received information that they formed part of a remittance of 153*l.* 10*s.*, in bills, drafts, and notes, from Messrs. Harvey and Hudson's Bank, at Thetford, Norfolk, addressed to Messrs. Hankey and Co's Bank, in Lombard street. I also found on him an ivory ticket for the Horticultural Society's shows, and a foreign office passport. The prisoner was remanded for further examination.

The Case of Young Van Epps.

In another column we have alluded to the case of John A. Van Epps, which recently came before the U. S. Court at Albany. He had been indicted for violations of the post office laws, while a clerk in the office at Schenectady, N. Y.; and when arraigned, by advice of his friends and counsel, he pleaded guilty, and threw himself upon the mercy of the Court.

A desire to do all the good we can in saving other young men similarly situated, has led us to procure for publication a copy of the remarks addressed to Judge Hall by the U. S. District Attorney, Hon. W. A. Dart, on the final disposition of this case. They were as follows:—

"MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,—Between the demands of justice, the calls of mercy, and a desire to promote the public security, there has been a conflict, induced by the plea of the prisoner at the bar.

"That faithfulness to constitutional obligations, and disregard of legal and social duty, which has led to arms against the Government, of the States of this Union seem to have prevailed, to a certain extent, all branches of the public service. Crimes in the Post Office Department have seemed to increase as society is more and more disturbed, requiring at the hands of those administering the laws, a rigid enforcement of their pains and penalties. I had determined in this case to insist, so far as it would be proper for me to do so, that the prisoner at the bar should be imprisoned in a State Prison for as long a period as the law would permit, for the benefit the example might afford to others.

"This case, however, exhibits some peculiar features which have inclined me to mercy. The prisoner, John A. Van Epps, is a boy of about sixteen years of age, of highly respectable parentage, who, a little more than a year ago, were reduced by misfortune from affluence to poverty. As one of the results, the prisoner was put to service at the post office in the city of Schenectady, at a salary of two dollars per week—a sum quite inadequate to his support, as he had been accustomed to live. This, with the numerous opportunities which present themselves in a post office to commit crime without apparently any means of detection, led to his fall.

"His career of crime was short, fortunately for him. Detection came much sooner than he had anticipated. He has been indicted for opening and destroying letters not containing articles of value, and to that he pleads guilty. This is his first offence, and what shall be done with him? A bright and otherwise promising boy has fallen into temptation, and sinned grievously. I admit. Incarceration within a prison for a term of years will be very likely to extinguish ambition, and render his future career hopeless. At the risk of the example, I feel impelled to ask your Honor, as I now do, to suspend sentence until the term of this Court, to be held in this place in October, 1862.

"I cannot discuss this subject without entering my protest against the practice now quite too prevalent, of employing boys as clerks in the post offices of the country, at salaries so inadequate to their wants as to tempt them to the commission of crime. By it the employer is often robbed to a ruinous extent, the public service impaired, and the employes ruined for life. This should not be."

Smith.

A newspaper arrived at the New Haven (Conn.) Post Office a few days since addressed to "Smith," the only word upon the wrapper.

As is well known, they have a new Postmaster in New Haven, and as a matter of course almost, a new Assistant Postmaster also. The latter, as well as his employer, is a very energetic, persevering gentleman. He rather boasts that nothing is too hard for him to accomplish in the postal line which can be brought about by time and hard labor. For the word "fail" he has a thorough contempt. Well, here *was* really a forlorn hope to be sure, and it was so regarded by our friend II— from the start. He consulted the City Directory and found, he says, "no less than five pages of Smiths!" As the first step in the investigation, he quickly drew out the paper from the wrapper, and found it to be the *Methodist*, published in New York.

Our friend retires to the well-furnished apartment of the Postmaster, City Directory in hand, for quiet reflection on this difficult case.

"Smith, Smith, Smith," soliloquised H— "Who among this long list of Smiths are Methodists and would be likely to receive such a paper? That's a pretty question to be sure, for a staid Presbyterian like myself," and the hearty laugh of our friend over this ridiculous question could have been heard half over the building.

The idea was not so bad, however, as appeared in the sequel, for on following it up it led to the discovery of the proper person, and afforded new encouragement to the persevering qualities of the worthy official referred to.

Newspaper publishers will please be a little more careful in addressing their papers, as they must not expect so much trouble to be taken generally in post offices, by way of rectifying their blunders, as was put forth in this instance.

For the U. S. Mail.

The Experiment.

One of the unpleasant duties of the post office is that of holding for postage, letters whose writers have neglected, through ignorance or carelessness, to pre-pay them, or have prepaid them by the old stamp, and deposited them in offices where that stamp is not recognized. Each such letter represents some special interest, either of business, of affection, of pleasure, or of sadness, which caused its writing, and its detention is the postponement, and often the defeat of its object.

At the Post Office at New Haven, Conn., one of the clerks has arranged a simple expedient by which this inconvenience may be prevented. At the close of each day's business, a list of "held-for-postage letters" is made out and placed on a bulletin in the vestibule, for public inspection. Unless called for during the subsequent day, a selection of those apparently most important, or from which returns are most likely to be received, is made, the proper postage is paid, and they are forwarded to destination, bearing upon their back the following notice, printed for that purpose:—

"The postage on this letter, which would otherwise be detained for postage, is paid from a fund provided by a gentleman who knows the inconvenience caused by the neglect of postal requirements. That others may continue to receive their letters in the like manner, you are requested to repay this loan by enclosing a stamp of the NEW STYLE, to Post Office, Box 300, New Haven, Conn."

The expressions of thanks which often accompany the returning stamps, are in many cases extremely gratifying, and evince that "Box 300" is a public convenience. Sometimes two stamps are returned instead of the one sent; and in one instance, a grateful individual at Waterford, N. Y., repaid the advance, by sending six stamps instead of the one asked for.

For the encouragement or discouragement of any party disposed to enter into a similar arrangement, it may be stated that the "dem'd total," as Mr. Mantalini would say, of the experience of "Box 300," is this—that the fund is, at the present writing, worth about 80 per cent. of the original investment. This is probably the result of forgetfulness, or of oversight, in opening letters, without noticing the envelope, since it is hard to believe that one-half the letter-writing and receiving community are so dishonorable as deliberately to "flood" even these three cents' worth each out of a stranger who has trusted to their honor in endeavoring to do them a favor.

There is but one similar arrangement known to the writer. This is carried on by the owner of Box 382, Newark, N. J., to whom, through the columns of the *Mail*, "Box 300, New Haven, Conn.," presents his respects, and desires to be favored with the statement of his somewhat longer experience.

EXTENSIVE CORRESPONDENCE.—During the third quarter ending on the 30th ultimo, thirty thousand, three hundred and eighty letters were received at the office of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department; and during the same period, nineteen thousand seven hundred and forty-five letters were pre-paid and mailed by that office. This is a pretty heavy correspondence, but it gives only a faint idea of the immense amount of labor performed in that bureau of the Treasury Department.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1861.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

Official Indorsement.

It affords us not a little satisfaction to be permitted to publish the following official indorsement of our paper by the Postmaster-General. We are also informed that a formal Order has been made by Judge BLAIR, for the publication in the MAIL of all official orders, decisions, instructions, etc., of general interest, in connection with the administration of the Department:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

Yours, respectfully,
M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Esq.

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.—A number of inquiries on official matters of more or less importance, have been submitted to us since our last issue, which, owing to other pressing duties, we have not found time to answer. We will do so in our next. In regard to such questions, they are sometimes of rather a novel character, and require time to prepare intelligible and safe replies. Some of them refer to points never submitted to the Department for a decision, and can be determined only by consultation at head quarters.

NEW POST OFFICE BOOK.—Inquiry is often made when the Department will probably publish a revised edition of the P. O. Laws and Regulations and List of Post Offices. Not at present. The cause is easily explained. Owing to the unsettled state of the country, it would be impossible to give a correct list of offices in the Southern States, or decide which to include or exclude in the "border States." When the broken link in the Union chain shall have been mended by the hammer of the Constitution, the useful publication referred to will no doubt again appear, and we trust, with a longer list than ever before. Meanwhile, for the new post-offices consult the columns of the U. S. MAIL. Subscription price only \$1.00 per year.

Boston Post Office.

BACK TO WINTER POST-OFFICES.—It may not be generally known—though it certainly must be by this time, to its citizens—that the "City of Notions" has for some years past been blessed with two post offices, or rather post office buildings. One, the old site, is situated in State street, in the Merchants' Exchange building, and the other in Summer street. The latter edifice was built expressly for a post office, as a matter of private enterprise, and was first occupied in 1858, under the administration of Mr. Buchanan, who is understood to have taken a decided personal interest in the question of a change of location. Since then the office has been sent back to State street, by virtue of Congressional intervention, then returned to Summer street, and now it is again under marching orders from the Postmaster-General, for the old starting point, State street, and is about to "pull stakes" in obedience to that order. The full history of this affair, would be both interesting and amusing. So unsettled has the "whereabouts" of the office become, that it will probably be a long time before a visit to both localities, by many absent-minded citizens, in pursuit of their letters, will be avoided.

At present the State street party are ahead, who may now adopt the poetic exclamation,
Now is the winter of our discontent,
Made glorious summer
By this post office's change.

Postmaster General Blair!

We understand that the shrewd managers of the "Exchange," propose to buy or lease the troublesome premises in Summer street, remove all the post office fixtures, and convert it permanently into a dry goods establishment. It was, if we mistake not, Mr. Mathews, the enterprising Agent of the State street property, who suggested that the "prepayment system" already established at the defunct post office, would justify the new purchasers in demanding a smashing rent, when converted as above proposed!

WASHINGTON AGENCY.—In another column will be found a notice of a new and important Agency recently established at Washington, by Hon. HORATIO KING. The name of this gentleman is so familiar to all classes of citizens throughout the country, in connection with the Post Office Department, that those having occasion to avail themselves of his valuable services at Washington, will only need to have their attention called to the fact that he is prepared to render such services whenever they are required.

We know of no one who is better qualified, or who has superior facilities for transacting business with the Departments of the Government.

Mail Depredators Sentenced.

Franklin M. Reade, late a clerk in the Philadelphia Post Office, whose detection and arrest have already been noticed, has recently been sentenced by Judge Caldwell, to ten years imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania. This is the shortest term of punishment provided by law, in cases of persons convicted of mail robbery, if they are "employed in any of the departments of the post office establishment of the United States," whether as postmasters, clerks, mail-carriers, agents, or otherwise. The longest term is twenty-one years. This law is applicable only where the stolen mail or letters contain money or some other article of value; so that if any person sustaining such relation to the Department, shall "open, embezzle, or secrete" a letter containing even a one or three-cent postage stamp, without authority from the party addressed—which letter shall have come into his possession in his official capacity—he must, if proved guilty, be sentenced for ten years, and may be for twenty-one years. The same law provides for a less term of imprisonment, for opening letters without valuable enclosures.

We feel that we cannot too often call attention to the severity of the law on this subject, it being a leading object with this journal to prevent delinquencies in the post offices, and outside of them, by every means in our power. If, as has often happened within our own experience, post office employes err in ignorance of the terrible consequences, we intend it shall be no fault of ours.

In the case of Reade, he richly merited the severe penalty he has incurred: for he was not only proved guilty of the particular robbery charged upon him, but there is every reason to believe that his depredations have been quite numerous, and of incalculable injury and inconvenience to the business community. Much credit is due to Special Agent, S. B. Row, for his successful efforts in relieving the post office and the public from further loss and annoyance by this unscrupulous wholesale mail depredator.

Charles Center, arrested for embezzling letters while a clerk in the Boston Post Office, plead guilty, when brought before the U. S. Court in Boston, a few days since. He, too, had been engaged in tampering with the property of others on no petty scale, judging from his lavish expenditures of money, and the large list of letters and packages missing from his particular department in the post office. His fate, in some respect, is peculiarly sad. At the very time of his reckless profligations, he was a member of the Church, and a teacher in the Sabbath School. It was to this young man to whom the touching letter was addressed, published in our last paper, entitled a "Mother's Warning." She had ascertained something of her son's bad habits, and with all the power of a mother's affection, labored to aid him in resisting temptation and averting the threatened destruction. But alas! it was all too late. The officers of justice were even then close upon his heels, only waiting to obtain legal proof which would warrant an arrest and insure his conviction.

On the final disposition of this painful case, Mr. Dana, U. S. Attorney, stated the facts to the Court:

"Center was made a clerk in the office of Mr. Capen in January last, and was detected in July. He had taken a great many letters and a good deal of money—it was not known how much. He was only twenty-one years of age, well educated, and very capable, and had had the advantage of good moral domestic instruction, but had lately fallen into dissipated and extravagant habits, which resulted in this course of crime. Since his detection, he had done all he could for restitution, and under the excellent influences that surrounded him, it was thought that he had become truly penitent, with a fair prospect of reformation. But public example required a sentence of some severity. It was proper, however, to inform the Court, that about two years ago there was an occurrence which, at least, called his honesty in question, and put his friends on their guard."

"Mr. B. Dean addressed the Court in behalf of the prisoner, suggesting chiefly his youth, capabilities, good promises for the future, and the fact that he was not a professed criminal, but a youth who had fallen into temptation. He thought the lightest sentence would be enough for his reformation."

"Judge Sprague took time to consider the sentence; and subsequently addressed the prisoner at length, in an impressive manner. He said he had taken into consideration his youth, his capabilities for a useful life hereafter, and the probability that he was already penitent, and also the peculiar relation in which he had been placed with the late postmaster, and the effect this arrangement might possibly have had upon him, in several points of view. So far as his reformation was concerned, a long imprisonment might not be necessary; but, to deter others from the commission of these depredations and violations of trust, now so common, a severer sentence must be awarded. The law did not allow of sentence to the State Prison in this case, there being no penalty of hard labor. The sentence was for three years imprisonment in jail."

In view of what we have said in our allusion to the case of Reade, in regard to ten years being the shortest term of punishment, it may be proper that we should here remark, that although the proof was ample to show the taking of money—letters by Center, in the counts in the indictment to which he was called upon to plead, it was not charged that the letters were of value.

Special Agent Ordway was mainly instrumental in this important arrest.

Oliver C. Smith, who had been for some time awaiting his sentence for breaking into various post offices, and purloining therefrom a large quantity of letters, was recently brought up for sentence in Boston. He was sent to prison for six years.

Among the post offices, for the robbery of which Smith was indicted and convicted, upon his own plea of guilty, were the following:—Roxbury Pithcure, North Easton, Stoughton, and Charlestown, Mass.

J. J. Johnson, alias Daily, was arrested in Albany some weeks since, while offering for sale in that city, a quantity of children's clothing of

the most expensive description, there appearing good grounds for a suspicion that the said articles had not been honestly obtained. Among the things found upon his person were two drafts for \$2,500 each. On investigation, it was ascertained that these drafts were a part of the contents of a mail-pouch made up in New York for Troy, and which was known to have been stolen before reaching its destination. Johnson, failing to account in any satisfactory manner for the possession of the drafts, and in fact having made different statements regarding them, he was handed over to the U. S. authorities, and was finally convicted of the robbery referred to, at the October term of the U. S. Court at Albany. Among the witnesses for the Government were one or two New York officers, who identified the prisoner as the notorious "boot thief," who was finally arrested while in the act of carrying off his booty obtained at a tolerably early hour in the morning from the guests of the Astor. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, without leaving their seats; and, as a consequence of the mail robbery, Mr. Boots is to walk up to the Captain's office at Auburn for the settlement of his accounts with the Government—the precise time allowed for that purpose being four years.

The case of young Van Epps, late post office clerk at Schenectady, was also disposed of at Albany at the same session of the Court. He had been indicted for purloining a letter from the post office, and partially destroying the same.

After a plea of guilty had been entered, the Hon. Mr. Dart, U. S. District Attorney, addressed the Court in reference to this case.

Army Correspondence.

Not far from five thousand letters for officers and privates in our army, near Washington, are forwarded daily from the New York office alone; and of the same class of letters there are received at New York from Washington, for delivery and distribution, not less than 10,000 per day. The entire number of "soldier's letters" sent off daily from the Washington Post Office is in the neighborhood of 45,000, and about the same number are received.

Owing to the frequent embezzlement of soldier's valuable letters, by persons selected as post office messengers by the Colonels of the several regiments, that system of delivery was abandoned some time since, and the letters are now delivered by trusty carriers appointed by government.

Our advice is to all correspondents who have occasion to send through the mails army letters with money, drafts, treasury notes, etc., to avail themselves of the Registry system, as letters when so registered, can only be taken from the post office by a receipt being given therefor by some authorized person, who can at once be referred to in case the letter does not reach its final destination.

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Daily Journal thus speaks of the letter-writing propensities of those composing our gallant army:

"There never was an army like this for correspondence. Go through the camp at any time, any hour of the day, and you will see hundreds of soldiers—when of duty—writing letters. It is a picturesque sight. Some lie at full length on the ground, beneath the shade of the trees, with a board or book for a table, with pen and ink—though often only a pencil—writing the news to their friends. Some stand upright against the trunks of the trees; some lean forward with their papers upon their knees, and some with much mistaking stand up and write. The average number of letters received for the soldiers at the Washington Post Office is forty-five thousand per day, and an equal number are mailed—making an aggregate of ninety thousand envelopes and sheets of paper a day. Of course the sale of envelopes is immense. One dealer informed me this morning that his sale of envelopes averaged fifty thousand per day. Yesterday he sold one hundred thousand for Banks' division."

POST OFFICE ROBBERY.—The Post Office at Hammondsport, in this State, was broken open on the night of the 12th of October, and over \$200 in money and postage stamps, were carried off. The burglar must have imagined himself a clerk in the Dead Letter Office, (except in the matter of honesty,) judging from the unceremonious manner in which he smashed open the letters. Postmasters should use greater precaution than is generally done, in the country towns, especially, in making their Post Office premises secure against the depredations of burglars. Some may not be aware that no allowance is made by the Post Office Department for Government funds or postage stamps, stolen by burglars or others. It is a loss outright to the postmaster.

P. S.—Since writing the above, the author of the robbery has been discovered, and is now at Ballston Springs. His name is C. A. Mawney, a young man who had hitherto borne a good character, and occupied the position of school teacher in the village of Penn Yan. He was an active teacher in the Sunday School, and a constant attendant upon religious services." So says the Schenectady Star. It seems Mawney called at the post office in that city, and offered a lot of postage stamps for sale, proposing to part with \$16 worth for \$10, alleging that he was a postmaster in Western New York; that he had been robbed of all his money while on his way from New York city, and needed funds with which to defray his expenses home. The postmaster having been apprised of the robbery of the Hammondsport office, and not liking the appearance of this customer, concluded to watch his movements, and did so, until he took one of the Western trains. Special Agent Humphrey was soon on his track, and succeeded in finding him in the woods hunting, near the residence of some of his (Mawney's) relatives, in Saratoga county. When arrested, the original official envelope which had contained the stolen stamps, and a quantity of the stamps themselves, were found upon his person. He was examined before U. S. Commissioner Martin at Saratoga, and bound over for trial.

Back numbers of the U. S. MAIL can be supplied, if required.

Another Revolutionary Soldier Gone.

The best of men must die, sooner or later, somebody has said. So, too, the best of postmasters must, some time or other, give up their official relations to the public, though "few die, and none resign."

It appears that a veteran in the service, over in the old Bay State, has been reached at last by the application of the rotation principle, and he has seen fit to apprise us of his exit from the public crib, in the following pithy communication, which we insert on account of some good points which it contains, not altogether foreign to the interests of the MAIL. Considering that "rotation in office" has been so much in vogue during the last "ten Administrations," under which our friend says he has served, we think he has been quite fortunate to hold on so long. Allowing four years for a Presidential term, and assuming that he was of age when he became postmaster, he must now be at least sixty-one years old; and the presumption is, that the Department concluded he had done his full share in the public service. We certainly think so when we consider the slavish nature of a postmaster's life in offices like his, requiring, no doubt, his personal attention.

When his successor has had the office forty years, he will no doubt retire cheerfully, and gladly contribute a liberal sum in defence of the "old flag," should it again be assailed by foreign or domestic foes:—

"MY DEAR SIR,—That I have always appreciated your valuable paper, you are fully aware, for I have taken it, and paid for it, as I have also all publications that aided me in the discharge of my postal duties. But being a Democrat of the old school, and always a supporter of the Flag and the Constitution of our country, I was, the day after I had paid fifty dollars to help to carry on the war, very unceremoniously removed from my office, and did not notice, until I found by the October number, that my time of subscription was out. While I would recommend the paper to every postmaster in the land, I must decline taking it any longer."

"Very truly, your friend, the old Democratic ex-Postmaster, who served under ten different Administrations, "W—D—"

Once More.

The Postmaster of New York is daily receiving letters of which the following may serve as an example:—

"SIMPLETON, GREEN CO., Oct., 1861.
"DEAR SIR,—On the 10th of last month I wrote to Messrs Skinner & Gouge, of your city, enclosing \$1, which they have never received, and I think some one in the post office must have taken it. Please give the matter your attention, and oblige, yours truly,
"JOSAS GULLIBLE.

"P. S. I enclose Skinner & Gouge's advertisement."

The advertisement referred to, cut from a country paper, sets forth that Messrs. S. & G. will, on the receipt of one dollar, forward, post-paid, to any part of the country, "500 Patriotic Union Envelopes, each one of a different design," or a "ream of beautiful union note-paper," or some other article worth ten times the sum for which they are willing to dispose of it. And if they should advertise that they would forward, for the same price, by return mail, a twenty-dollar piece, or a valuable horse and buggy, or a brown-stone house with all the modern improvements, there is but little doubt that they would find plenty of Gullibbes eager to swallow the tempting bait; and that, too, in spite of all the warnings which have been given in regard to this very trick. It seems almost a waste of time to again call the attention of those who may be hovering round the entrance to this artfully-prepared trap, to the fact that all who enter there may as well leave behind any hope that the brilliant promises held out by advertisements of this nature will ever be fulfilled. Nevertheless, we will take occasion, once more, to say to all who contemplate making an investment of this nature, that it is a safe rule to take it for granted, that whoever invites you to give him one dollar for an article worth ten, thereby asks you to become a party to a transaction by which either you or he will inevitably be swindled. There is no room for compromise in the matter: if he keeps his promise, you obtain "the best of the bargain," to an extent warranted by the principles of honesty which govern all legitimate business operations. If, on the contrary, he fails in fulfilling his part of the agreement, you are the sufferer—and we must confess that we have not many tears to shed over your disappointed hopes of obtaining an unfair advantage.

Just now, however, it is not so much to the victims of these impostors that we propose to address ourselves, in again alluding to this subject, as to those who make themselves, however innocently, the accomplices of their schemes—we mean the newspapers who publish their advertisements. It cannot be a difficult task for an editor to discriminate, in most cases, between advertisers who in good faith offer unusual inducements to the purchase of their wares, and those whose sole object is the extraction of money from the pockets of the unwary, with no intention of making any return. And though it would be rather hard upon the editorial fraternity to make them answerable for the statements of their advertisers, yet there is no question that they are, in a measure, morally responsible for the results of the publication of such advertisements as bear upon their face the evidence of an intention to defraud. The money which is paid for their insertion is stained with knavery; and all conscientious publishers and editors should see to it that they do not violate their duty to their subscribers, the public, and themselves, by soiling their hands with a bribe to aid in what is neither more nor less than an attempt to obtain money from their patrons under false pretences. If they would do this, the satisfaction they would feel at having performed an obvious duty would, we are sure, more than compensate them for the pecuniary loss which the consequent cessation of the patronage of rogues would entail upon them.

The new government wrappers for newspapers, with penny stamp affixed, are now for sale at most of the large post offices.

CONVICTION IN THE PALMOUTH CASE.—In the U. S. Circuit Court, at Boston, before His Honor, Judge Clifford, the case of the U. S. ex. Joseph S. Hewins, was commenced on the 30th ult., and was terminated on the 4th inst., by the jury rendering a verdict of guilty.

In a late number of our paper, under the caption of "The Palmouth Case," we gave, in some detail, the history of this interesting case of mail robbery, and the trial has been one of the most important that has occurred since that of Tuckerman, as regards the interests of the public and the Government.

It will be recollected that a package of bank notes and drafts, to the amount of \$5,000, was stolen while on its way in the mail from Palmouth, Mass., to Boston. In this package was a certain \$500 bill, which was put in circulation some months after the robbery, and which was traced back into the hands of the accused, who was shown to have had free access to the Monument Post Office, where the MAIL would have remained an hour or two, on its way to Boston. While this was the leading fact relied on for conviction, there were many others but little less conclusive, going to establish the guilt of Hewins.

The Government was represented on the trial by Hon. Richard H. Dana, U. S. District Attorney, and Hewins was as ably defended by Judge Marston, of Brantstable, and Mr. Andros, of Boston, late Assistant U. S. Attorney.

Two other parties are under indictment as accomplices, and accessories after the fact—one of whom, if not both, will soon be brought to trial.

PATRIOTIC.—The Hon. Horatio King, so long connected with the Post Office Department, and at the close of the last Administration holding the position of Postmaster-General, publishes an admirable, patriotic letter on the subject of the war, in a late issue of the Boston Post. The concluding paragraph is as follows:—

"Let me not be misunderstood. I entertain no hostile feelings against the South; in the contrary, I have always been, and trust I shall ever continue to be, her steadfast friend. I would defend her to the last against every encroachment of all her just rights under the Constitution. Her people are our brethren, and I rejoice to know, from personal observation, that the feeling of friendship toward them in the North remains unshaken. It is not against them that we contend, but against a band of traitors and conspirators, their oppressors, and for their own deliverance. In a word, the war which has been forced upon us, and in which we are engaged, is not one of aggression, or conquest, or spoliation, or passion, but in every light in which it can be regarded, it is a war of duty. The struggle is intensely one for national existence."

Sunday Mails.

Editor of U. S. Mail:
Sir,—I noticed in your last issue an interesting article on "Sunday Mail Service," on which I beg the privilege of making a few observations.

The subject is one of much importance; for it is of no little consequence to every friend of the moral and physical well-being of society to know whether any custom which is practised by Government and countenanced by the people, is or is not a violation of moral and physical laws. The writer of the article alluded to, has confined himself principally to the question considered in its moral aspects, and in many things I heartily accord with his views; but regret that he expressed a no more decided opinion as to the divine origin of the Sabbath, on which the whole question turns: for if this institution is not of present and universal obligation, then the question of its observance is removed from the sphere of morals, and becomes simply a matter of expediency. Laying aside every other consideration, I am convinced that, such as the Sabbath contemplates, is indispensable to every being that labors, whether man or beast. Their natures require it, as experience has abundantly shown; and in this nation especially, with its fervid activity and unspurring wear-and-tear of brain and muscle, it is essential that the human machine should have a more complete refreshment of its powers than the ordinary nightly rest can supply. Were the question put to the masses of toilers in our fields, and shops, and factories, and offices, whether they would be willing to labor on from one year's end to another, with no seventh day's respite from their exertions, I apprehend that a very general negative would be returned. It is true that the rest which many take upon the Sunday is not such a repose from care and toil and perplexity as the day is capable of affording; but a pause in the tasks of six successive days is something. At the lowest, Sunday gives a temporary relief to wearied muscles and jaded nerves; and at the highest, it strengthens the whole man for the duties and trials of life. For these and other like reasons, it would seem that the observance of the day is good policy, to say the least; and that any advance in that direction, on the part of Government or individuals, is so much gained for the good of the human race. P. T.

During the quarter ending Sept. 3d, there were sent to the Dead Letter Office, from the Post Office at Albany, N. Y., no less than fourteen hundred letters, which had been deposited in that office, with the old instead of the new postage stamps affixed.

In reference to this class of letters, we like the practice adopted in some of the offices, of making a daily list of all such letters thus held, by their address, and placing such list in a conspicuous place for the benefit of careless or absent-minded correspondents.

Dear Uncle Sam, please list to my call, For I wish to find Mr. Robert Mettall; To lift my real secrets I wish to unfold, Where you will find him you soon will be told. The county is Chester; the state that of Penn—Phonixville Post Office, and you'll have it then.

To Charles P. Brady this letter is sent, In old Yale College his time is most spent; And if you don't know where that's to be found, 'Tis in New Haven, Connecticut, somewhere around.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. II. No. 3.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1861.

WHOLE No. 15.

For the U. S. Mail.

A Costly Blunder.

EDITOR OF U. S. MAIL, SIR,—I receive your excellent paper with regularity, and read it with interest; but truth compels me to say that it is deficient in a point of vast importance to multitudes of both man and woman. In short, the female element, if not wanting in your columns, is but sparingly introduced, and I venture to request you to permit me to give a scrap from my own experience to aid in making this department more prominent. I have wondered, indeed, that a gentleman of your well-known sagacity should be so oblivious, apparently, of the requirements of the present romance-loving generation.

Perhaps you will say that it is not an oversight, and that your journal was not designed for the entertainment of romantic youth, who devour with eagerness the most recent instalment of "The Bloody Bride," or "The Destroyer's Doom," but for the benefit of the solid men and women who write letters, and receive newspapers, and despise nonsense. I acknowledge there is something in this view, and am ready to admit that the solid men aforesaid may look with contempt upon any thing which has no direct bearing upon their business interests. With such I would gently remonstrate, as did Sir Toby with Malvolvo: "Dost thou think that because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?" I beg their indulgence for the sake of those who are fond of such viands, although my ale may prove little better than small beer.

A casualty befell me not long ago to which all, whether gentle or simple, great or small, are liable. I fell in love. The object of my adoration was a daughter of Eve, and a niece of Uncle Sam—therefore (not to go any further back), my cousin—though, happily, not within a prohibited degree of relationship, for political reasons, I believe, are not forbidden to marry. It is unnecessary to describe her, as a catalogue of her charms in the style of Olivia, in "Twelfth Night" ("item, two lips indifferent red; item, two gray eyes, with lids to them; item, one neck, one chin, and so forth.") would give but an imperfect idea of the sum total. I talked and walked with her, and made myself as generally and particularly agreeable as circumstances would permit. Unfortunately for me, she returned home from the visit which she had been making to me, and I could summon up courage to consult the oracle which would determine my fate, or, in other words, to pop the question. As the next best thing, I obtained her permission to correspond, and I may say that with her autograph and her photograph became more and more objects of interest to me, so that at last I was impelled to state to her the condition of my mind, and to offer her my heart and hand and all that belonged thereto. After having made several unsatisfactory attempts, I at last succeeded in framing a document which embraced the points above named, and committed it with fear and trembling to the letter-box. Business called me away from home for a few days, and on my return I at once inquired for letters, of which there were enough from various quarters, but none in reply to mine. From day to day I lived upon that very poor diet, expectation, till finally, my patience being exhausted, I wrote again, asking whether she had received my former letter, and repeating its contents. It was not long before I received a reply in these terms—

"H—, Aug. 17, 1861.

"DEAR SIR—I have just received yours of the 15th, and hasten to reply that the former letter to which you allude has not reached me. In regard to your flattering offer, it may be proper for me to say that I regret it has come too late for me to consider it, as I am expecting before long to become the wife of Mr. John C—, whom I believe you know. I have thought it due to you to be thus frank, and hope that nothing which has or may occur will prevent our continuing good friends.

Yours, with esteem,
JANE T—."

This was very clear, if not satisfactory. As I had flattered myself that my chance for obtaining her hand was fair, this brief and business-like note produced in me both disappointment and wonder at her apparent fickleness. I accordingly took some pains to learn the facts in the case, and ascertained that her intended, who, as I know, had been my rival, had pressed his suit with much ardor after her return home, and as my letters suddenly ceased, she, under the influence of some pique at my supposed neglect, accepted him. The most provoking part of the affair, however, consisted in the insignificant cause of all this *intrompion*. Soon after the catastrophe above described, I happened to be talking with one of the clerks of our post office—an intimate acquaintance—who had lately received his appointment. I had made him my confidant in this love affair, and while I was saying something about it, he suddenly exclaimed, "Oh, that reminds me that I found the letter which you sent to Jane, in an out-of-the-way pigeon-hole in the office, a dead letter. I can tell you why she never got it. You had stuck one of the old stamps on it after the time when they ceased to be good."

It was even so, for on reclaiming my letter the next day, the ancient red face of the Father of my Country, unenclosed, adorned its exterior. If my friend had been in the office when the unfortunate letter was mailed, my mistake would have been rectified by him, but as it was, my carelessness, or distraction of mind, or whatever it might have been, has cost me dear. It has cost me a dear, at any rate.

"We hope the government will ferret out the scamps in the army at and near Washington, who are stealing the money letters sent home by the soldiers to their friends. The monster who would thus coolly rob a poor soldier of his scanty earnings ought to be strung up without judge or jury. Such a creature would steal the medicine intended for his infant brother."—*Exchange paper.*

In either case it would be robbing his "brother in arms."—[MAIL.]

Post Office Savings Banks.

We find in the London *Press*, of Sept. 14th, an interesting description of a new financial institution—"post office savings banks." These are designed for the accommodation of the poorer classes, to whom the ordinary savings banks have not proved so great a benefit as was expected, and for a reason which the *Press* thus states:

"Hitherto, the savings bank has been an institution which the people, for whom it was originally and expressly intended, have been either unable or else ashamed to approach. The grand, imposing-looking building was open perhaps twice a week, and then only for a few hours in the middle of the day, when the laboring man or his wife could not attend to deposit their week's accumulation, which was, therefore, generally squandered upon an object either unnecessary or else positively harmful. But the banks which are now opened in connection with the post offices will be ready to receive deposits all day, and every day in the week, so that the artisan may, even up to eight o'clock on Saturday night, instead of walking into the gin palace, put away in the post office what he does not require of his week's wages, with the certainty of being able to receive the money so saved whenever he requires it."

Interest is allowed on deposits, but the rate is not mentioned. In order to make a deposit, it is only necessary for the "depositor" to give his address and occupation to the postmaster; to deposit the money and sign his name, as every stranger has to do on opening an account in any bank, and to receive his deposit book, with the entry duly made, and attested by the postmaster's signature. The next day the depositor will receive from the district office an acknowledgment of the sum lodged at the "local office." Three hundred of these banks are to be opened, and should the experiment be thus far successful, "the system will hereafter be extended so as to embrace every money-order office in the kingdom, when there will be twenty-five hundred post office savings banks."

Fortunately we in America have no buildings occupied by savings banks so "grand" and "imposing-looking" as to deter our workmen from entering their portals and depositing their hard-earned wages for a rainy day. It would be interesting to know how much of the present Government loan has been taken by these same depositors, who are not only the bone and sinew of the country, but furnish no mean proportion of the "sinews of war." It is creditable to the English Government that it takes so active an interest in the prosperity of the laboring classes, but we may congratulate ourselves any such interposition of our Government unnecessary.

Life Insurance and Post Office Clerks.

We would call the attention of Postmasters and their clerks throughout the Union to the fact that the system of Life Insurance, as adopted by the best companies, presents very favorable inducements for savings to those who are in receipt of limited incomes. It is the person of moderate circumstances, and not the man of wealth, who should enjoy the benefits of a well-conducted Life Insurance Company. We do not wish to imply by this remark that *some* should insure but those of moderate means; on the contrary, we think that it is the duty of every one, rich or poor, in these times of trouble and fluctuation, to devote a small portion of his daily earnings to the support of this system of benevolence. By the putting aside a very small sum per week or month, as the case may be, a life insurance may be perfected, and successfully carried through for years. After a policy has been in force for a few years, it attains, in all well-regulated companies, an actual *cash value*, which can be realized to the insured, in the event of a reverse to himself or family. It is therefore within the reach of almost every one to maintain and carry on a life policy which, in the case of a clerk, should run for the benefit of his wife and children.

A post-office clerk at the age of twenty-five, having a salary of \$300, by the saving of less than four dollars per month, can insure in the most respectable companies for \$2,000. The actual cost per year is \$39 60. This sum paid annually will secure to the widow, in case of her husband's death, a moderate competency. This would be a saving of about fifteen cents only per day! How few clerks, then, are in the post offices throughout the country who cannot devote a small portion of their daily, weekly, or monthly earnings to the sacred purpose of providing for their families, in case of sudden death.

In conversation lately with the secretary of one of our best institutions, he stated, that although the limit taken was \$10,000 upon a single life, yet the policies do not average much more than \$2,000 each—a fact which shows that the people of moderate means are the great supporters of Life Insurance in this country. In short, the system is one for the poor, for it is a Savings' Bank, with the advantage to the depositor that he may receive much more than he deposits. We shall allude to this matter on some future occasion, and touch more upon the character of the various Life Companies transacting business in this country. For the pres-

ent, we would refer our friends who feel interested in the subject, to the advertisement in another column of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company of Boston, the oldest chartered Mutual Company in the United States. A correspondence with the Secretary will be promptly answered, or inquiries addressed to Mr. John Hopper, the Agent of the Company in the city of New York, will receive due consideration.

Colonel Corcoran.

We perceive that this gallant officer, together with three captains and eighteen lieutenants, all of whom were captured at the battle of Stone Bridge, and since been held prisoners, have been selected by lot to be hung, by way of retribution, in the event of the execution of Smith, the pirate, recently convicted in Philadelphia, and Captain Baker and the crew of the Southern privateer *Savannah*, lately tried in New York. The rebel authorities have also ordered that the officers upon whom the lot has fallen shall be in the mean time closely confined in jail, and receive the fare and treatment of condemned felons. The *Metropolitan Record*, the official organ of Archbishop Hughes, however, assures its readers that they need have no fears in regard to the safety of the Colonel, founding its opinion on the fact that the jury, in the case of the *Savannah*, have failed to agree. We think, moreover, that some circumstances which have lately transpired in the neighborhood of the Bahamas will not be without their influence in determining the fate of the unlucky drawers of the fatal lots; and we should not be surprised to hear that the directors of the lottery have received certain intelligence which has induced them to reconsider their determination in the matter. We still entertain the hope of seeing the brave Corcoran once more at his desk in the New York Post Office, which his capture has left so long vacant, and congratulating him on his safe return to his family and friends. He has a long account, however, to settle with the enemy, and it is more than probable that he will, before settling down to peaceful pursuits, be found once more at the head of a regiment of his countrymen, battling nobly for the land of his adoption. From what we know of his high-toned and chivalrous nature, we think we can safely predict that when he does escape from the hands of the enemy, it will be with his heart and arm untrammelled with oaths of allegiance or paroles.

Referring to the threat of the execution of the Colonel, we heard, a day or two since, from the lips of a patriotic and intelligent Irishman, the following spirited remark: "By the powers! if ever they hang that man, I'll leave the old woman and children and go myself; and, what's more, I know of thousands of Irishmen that you can't hold back either!"

SCENE AT THE POST OFFICE.—A Milesian female approaches. She is short and angular, with a hatched shaped face, and a batched edged voice.

"Where's me letter?" is her abrupt question.

"What letter?" asks the clerk.

"Niver mind now; I want me three cents."

"What three cents?"

"The three cents I giv ye to send a letter to New York."

"What do you want the three cents for then?"

"Because the letter never went."

"And how do you know it never went?"

"Because with me sither answered it, she said she never got it."

"How could she answer it if she never got it?"

"Arah, hold yer head. Will yer give me the three cents, or won't ye?"

"No ma'am, you must be crazy to ask it."

"It is me crazy?"

"Certainly, crazy as a bedbug."

"Bad luck to ye, and is it the like of you that do call me a bedbug? Is there any other way of gettin' at ye except through this little windy?" asked the now furious woman.

"No ma'am, no other way."

"Faith, it's lucky for you then. If there was, I'd come and waltz you like an old shoe. Niver mind," continued the lady as she went away. "I'll tell me husband to-night, and we'll get the two eyes out of ye, he will!"—*Poughkeepsie Press.*

RICHMOND POST OFFICE.—A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, thus alludes to Southern postal matters—

"The handsome office erected by the general government a few years ago in Main street, Richmond, for the purpose of a post-office, is still applied to the use for which it was designated. Postal arrangements in the South, although sadly shorn of their former completeness, still preserve an air of regular existence. To be plain, bad luck to ye, and is it the like of you that do call me a bedbug? Is there any other way of gettin' at ye except through this little windy?" asked the now furious woman. "No ma'am, no other way." "Faith, it's lucky for you then. If there was, I'd come and waltz you like an old shoe. Niver mind," continued the lady as she went away. "I'll tell me husband to-night, and we'll get the two eyes out of ye, he will!"—*Poughkeepsie Press.*

Others have thrown up their contracts rather than take such promiscuous remuneration; and besides that, a large proportion of the mail routes have been discontinued. Perhaps there is no deprivation resulting from the war which the people of the South regret more than they do the mail system. But recklessness and utter disregard of the future rule everywhere. The Southern mind seems to have resolved itself into this one idea, "After us the deluge."

Synopsis of the Postmaster General's Report.

The annual Report for this year is more than usually able and interesting. It was received too late to admit of more than a few extracts:

It appears that the whole number of post offices in the United States on the 30th of June, 1861, was 28,586; and that the entire number of cases acted upon during the same period was 10,638, including appointments made by the President of the United States. The whole number of appointments made by the Postmaster General, 9,235, and the number by the President during the same period, 337.

The aggregate earnings of the different transatlantic steamship lines during the year ending June 30, 1861, were \$392,887.63.

The expenditures of the department in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1861, amounted to \$13,606,759.11.

The expenditures in 1860 were \$14,874,772.89, showing a decrease in 1861 of \$1,268,013.78.

The gross revenue for the year 1861, including receipts from letter carriers, and from foreign postages, amounted to \$8,349,296.40.

The estimated deficiency of means for 1861, as presented in the annual report from the department December 3, 1859, was \$5,988,424.04. Deducting the actual deficiency, \$4,551,966.98, and there is an excess of estimated deficiency over actual deficiency of \$1,436,457.06.

The revenue from all sources during the year 1860 amounted to \$5,218,067.40.

The revenue from all sources during the year 1861 amounted to \$9,049,296.40.

Decrease of revenue for 1861 \$168,771.00

The net proceeds from post offices in the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, were \$3,688,690.56, and in 1861, \$3,801,457.08, showing an increase in 1861 of \$112,766.52.

And the net proceeds in 1860, \$2,046.51, and in 1861, \$2,776,707.57, showing a decrease in 1861 of \$142,839.81.

The decrease in 1861 from the net proceeds of 1860 in all the States appears to be \$30,043.29.

The estimate of the total expenditure for 1862 is somewhat less than those of previous years heretofore submitted. This difference arises from the fact that only partial estimates are made for the cost of postal service in States where it is now suspended.

The appropriation for deficiencies in 1861 was \$5,391,350.63, while the amount estimated to be required from the Treasury for 1862 is \$3,145,000.

The whole number of ordinary dead letters received and examined during the year was about 2,500,000.

The number of these letters containing money, which were registered and sent, during the year ending June 30, 1861, was 10,580.

The number of dead letters returned unopened to foreign countries during the fiscal year was 11,147, which, added to the number of domestic letters (103,856) sent out as above, gives the whole number sent out from the dead letter office for the year, 215,033.

The result of successful investigation in 7,560 cases confirms the past experience of the Department that the failure of a letter to reach its destination is, in the vast majority of instances, the fault alone of the writer or sender. Out of the above 7,560 valuable dead letters, 3,935 were directed to the wrong office, 467 were imperfectly addressed, 612 were directed to transient persons, 221 to parties who had changed their residences, 287 were addressed to fictitious persons or firms, 83 were uncalled for, 10 without any directions, 2136 were not mailed for want of postage stamps, 79 were missed, and for the failure of Postmasters to deliver 133 no satisfactory reason was assigned. The Department, therefore, can justly be held responsible for the non-delivery of but 212 of these letters.

Much other valuable data is given on this subject, and it is worthy of remark that of 78,768 letters before alluded to, originating in the Royal States and addressed to residents of distant States, 40,000 could not be returned, either because the signature of the writer was incomplete, or because the letter contained no clue to his residence. The experience of the Department shows that a large proportion of domestic letters written by educated persons, and particularly women, are deficient in one or both these respects.

In view of these and other facts, the Postmaster-General suggests that valuable dead letters, when returned to their owners, should be charged with treble the ordinary rate of postage, comprising one rate for return transportation to the dead letter office, one rate for registration there, and one rate for return transportation to the writers or owners.

In treaty with Mexico has been concluded, awaiting the ratification by Mexico, establishing a common international rate of twenty-five cents on letters, with other useful provisions.

The Postmaster-General has accepted the offer made in 1857 by Great Britain for a reduction of the international rate between the two countries on letters, from twenty-four to twelve cents, which, however, has not yet gone into operation, as it awaits the response of the British office.

The above abstract presents merely a few of the points of this important Report.

SOLDIERS' MONEY.—We are afraid that our soldiers' families will lose a good deal of money sent to them from Port Royal. The complaints at the post office are very numerous, that soldiers have written home that they have sent money which has never come to hand. The time of paying the regiments is known of course to the soldiers in the army, and we are afraid they are fingering money which does not belong to them. We would urge upon them to use the utmost care in regard to their money, and to know always that letters containing it are placed in trusty hands. It is of course, impossible to hunt it up here. If stolen, it is probably done before it reaches the Post office.—*N. Hamp. Telegraph.*

We have elsewhere mentioned the fact that 15,000 letters were received from our army in South Carolina, by a late steamer arriving at New York. What does the Southern slanderer who called our soldiers an "ignorant, unlettered gang," think of this?

Skinner and Gouge Again.

The following is a copy of a letter received by one of the victims of the above enterprising firm, (whose operations we mentioned in our last,) in reply to his complaint that he has not received the "500 white Union Envelopes," promised in their advertisement:

New York, Nov. 8, 1861.

Mr. Leonard, Esq.:
Dear Sir—Yours of the 4th, is duly at hand, and we hasten to answer the same, and we are sorry to have to inform you that your order has never been received, nor can we get any trace of it at our post office. We are in receipt of nearly 500 orders a day, and seldom have a letter lost by mail. Dear Sir, please inform us if you sent it registered, if so, we can find it we think, but if we don't find it won't you send us another order for our paper and envelopes; we will make up half the loss in what you may please to order.

Enclosed is a sample of our note paper and envelopes for \$1 for 500—and remain. We hope to hear from you by return of mail and oblige.

Very truly yours,

This letter, we may as well say, is signed by "O & J. E. Haywood," who are the originals of the firm of Skinner & Gouge. "Mr. Leonard, Esq.," declined sending the "other order," notwithstanding the liberal offer to share his loss, but enclosed the above to the Postmaster of New York, who has received authority to forward to the Dead Letter Office all letters addressed to the bogus firm of O & J. E. Haywood, from whence the contents will be returned to the writers.

We notice that some of the publishers of newspapers which contained the advertisement of these Jeremy Diddlers have acted on the hint contained in our last number, withdrawn the advertisement and warned their readers of its real character.

We are happy to state that the "500 orders daily" exist only in the imagination of the "Messrs. Haywood," and that the real number is very much below that figure; but it is rather mortifying to be obliged to add that the sufferers by this "artful dodge" are composed almost entirely of boys and—postmasters!

For the U. S. Mail.

The newspapers announce the death of William H. Jones, at Hartford, Conn., at the ripe age of eighty-three years. Mr. Jones was for about thirty years Postmaster at New Haven, Conn., having been appointed by James Madison, and held this office until the commencement of Harrison's Administration. He was a graduate of Yale College of the class of 1786, and a fellow-classmate of the venerable and eminent Prof. Silliman. Throughout his active life, he was a public servant, having united to the office of Postmaster, the office of landlord successively of the Assembly and Franklin Houses and the Tontine.

His successors in the office of Postmaster have been as follows: Henry Higgins, from 1841 to July, 1844, or nearly through Tyler's Administration; Edward A. Mitchell, from July, 1844 to the summer of 1849, through the remainder of the Tyler Administration, and through Polk's term; John B. Robertson, through the Taylor and Fillmore Administrations. Lucius A. Thomas, from 1853 to 1861, through the Pierce and Buchanan Administrations; and N. D. Sperry, the present incumbent.

We find in a late number of the *Boston Daily Journal*, some excellent and timely remarks on the subject of Post Office appointments, in the course of which the following sentences occur—

"There is no position under the Government where greater faithfulness is necessary on the part of the employes than in the Post Office Department. By neglect of duty on their part, not only is the transmission of money and its representatives, in the form of notes and checks, for which the mails are so constant employes, endangered, but private matters of even more importance than money come to the knowledge of unscrupulous persons. The necessity of additional care and precaution in appointments to this Department is shown by the fact that crimes committed by these officials are largely on the increase."

LETTERS TO FEDERAL PRISONERS.—To send letters to the Federal prisoners at Richmond, says the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the following regulations should be observed: It is neither advisable nor proper for others than family relatives, or friends very closely allied, to write to Richmond. An indiscriminate series of epistles from mere acquaintances or ordinary correspondents may be the means of depriving the prisoners of letters in which they have a heartfelt interest. The documents pass from North to South, or vice versa, only under cover of a flag of truce, and in a small package in the hands of the officers having its protection. No mail-bag is conveyed, and no settled agreement has been made between the Federal leaders and the enemy. As a general rule, nothing must be treated of except family matters—no ciphers will be allowed under any circumstances, and the war and its movements will not be open for discussion.

RESTRAINT ON INSURRECTION.—Major-Gen. Dix, by his application of a galvanic battery in the shape of a Union army, has waked up the apparently defunct loyalty of a portion of the Old Dominion; and we are glad to see that the Post Office Department gives evidence of a determination to keep up with the progress of our arms by sending a Special Agent to re-establish postal facilities in the counties of Accomac and Northampton.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1861.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall, with pleasure, extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

J. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmaster-General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

J. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.

November 21st, 1861.

Our New Postal Directory.

On this and third page will be found an official Summary of the Laws, Regulations, etc., now in force in the administration of the Post Office Department. They have been prepared with great care, and have passed the ordeal of inspection and revision by the proper officials at Washington.

Heretofore the laws and regulations, and catalogue of post offices, although published in book form under the sanction of the Department, and of course valuable, have been chiefly confined to post offices, and being issued at pretty long intervals, are without the progressive feature which is supplied by this sheet. The postal information thus given is really, in most respects, if as much importance to the public at large, as to post office officials.—We shall make all necessary additions to the Directory, from time to time.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Special attention is called to the following official notice of an important change respecting the treatment of letters heretofore held for postage. Careless correspondents will, no doubt, hold a justification in view of this timely evidence of consideration on the part of the Department:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Nov. 26, 1861.
In view of the increased number of letters held for postage and returned to the dead letter office, it is ordered that the order of the Department dated 8th October, 1860, be rescinded, and the prior practice restored. Postmasters will therefore notify the person addressed that such letter is held for postage, and that upon his writing thereon, prepaying the postage of his letter and enclosing a stamp to be placed on the letter held for postage, the same will be forwarded to his address. By order of the Postmaster-General.

JOHN A. KASSON, First Assistant P. M. G.

CHANGES IN FOREIGN POSTAGE.—The postage chargeable upon letters for Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and all other parts of China, Japan, Java, the Philippine Islands, Labuan, Borneo, Siam, Sumatra, and the Moluccas, posted in the United States for transmission via the United Kingdom, will hereafter be 45 cents the single rate of half an ounce or under, when directed via Southampton, and 51 cents the quarter ounce, or 57 cents the half-ounce letter when directed via Marseilles, pre-payment compulsory.

Corrections, it will be seen, have been made in our foreign postage tables, according to the above changes.

POSTAGE TO BE PAID BY THE FRENCH MAIL.—On and after the first of January, 1862, the postage chargeable upon letters between the United States and Italy, (the Austrian Provinces and Pontifical States excepted), forwarded via France, in the French mail, will be reduced from 27 to 21 cents, the single rate of one-fourth ounce or under, prepayment optional.

The single rate, by the French mail, upon letters for the Venetian and Papal States, will remain unchanged at 27 cents the quarter ounce and 54 cents the half ounce letter, prepayment optional.

TREASURY NOTES TO BE TAKEN FOR POSTAGE.—Some Postmasters having declined to receive United States Treasury Notes, payable on demand, the Postmaster General has made an order indicating that it is their duty to take such notes in payment of postage; but, of course, it is not expected that they will put themselves to inconvenience by returning specie in any unreasonable amounts by way of making change.

It should be borne in mind by postmasters, and others who consult our foreign postage tables and other official information, that these tables, etc., are constantly changing. It would not, therefore, be safe to rely permanently upon a single copy of this paper for such references, but the latest current number should always be consulted.

TO POSTMASTERS.—The Department is satisfied that a large amount of its revenues are lost by the neglect of post masters to collect and properly account for postages due upon newspapers and other printed matter. A rigid investigation into this matter is to be immediately instituted by the Department.

CORRECTIONS.—One of our lists of new Post Offices gave the name of Fremont, Westchester county, N. Y., as that of an office recently established. It should have been TERRYHOTT.

Answers to Inquiries.

All dead letters with inclosures of the slightest value, down to a postage stamp, are returned to the writers when their names and post offices appear; but this is frequently neglected.

Dead letter money may at any time be reclaimed on proof of ownership.

Letters sent to dead letter office for want of postage or proper direction, are generally examined and returned to the writers, whether containing inclosures or not. The great mass of other dead letters are not now read, but destroyed, because there is not sufficient clerical force authorized for the work. It is, however, the intention of the Department to provide as soon as possible for the return of a much larger number of dead letters, without inclosures, than at present.

Packages of medicines are not expressly named as mailable matter; but if done up so as not to endanger the mails, they may be sent at letter rates.

Under ordinary circumstances a parent, as the natural guardian, has the right to control the correspondence of minor children; but when questions of this kind arise, it is best to report all the facts to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, and ask advice for each case.

Newspapers and periodicals, regularly mailed to bona fide subscribers, are not "transient printed matter," and may, therefore, be mailed by agents, as well as publishers, in the same manner, and with the same privileges, as if they were mailed to each subscriber directly from the office of publication; provided, the agent makes and files in the mailing office a statement signed by him, showing the names of the papers or periodicals which he thus mails, the offices, respectively to which they are directed, and the number of such subscribers to each, with the dates to which their respective subscriptions extend, at each office to which said papers or periodicals are directed.

Postmasters are required to keep a supply of postage stamps for sale, and to see that letters are duly prepaid by stamps; but it is not intended to throw upon them the labor of affixing the stamps upon letters when the writers might, without inconvenience, have done it themselves.

A person having the franking privilege can not lend his frank to be sent away or to be used by others for their private correspondence; and letters thus improperly franked must be treated like other unpaid letters held for postage.

Weekly newspapers only are entitled to go free in the mail to subscribers within the county where published.

When a package of newspapers or periodicals comes to one address for a club, the person so addressed is held for the postage; nor is it the duty of the postmaster to collect the postage from the individual members of the club. It must be paid in advance for at least a quarter, on the package.

A single one cent stamp on a letter to be sent through the mail should not be recognized, and the letter must be held for postage the same as if wholly unpaid.

A written request in a postmaster to forward a letter, is considered "post office business," and entitled to go free.

When letters in large numbers addressed to postmasters, are placed in any post office to be mailed as free, the postmaster should require the sender to satisfy him that they are not private circulars, which, whether written or printed, are subject to postage, although addressed to a postmaster.

New Mail Arrangements.

Postmaster General BLAIR, in the midst of all the constant and vastly responsible duties imposed upon a member of the Cabinet at a crisis like the present, is still enabled to bestow upon the more legitimate business of his own Department all the time and attention which are required by the public interests. In connection with his efficient Assistants, he has instituted many important changes and improvements in the postal service—among the most prominent of which, is the new schedule recently adopted upon the mail routes between Washington and Boston, by which these valuable mails are conveyed the entire distance without, it may be said, a moment's loss of time. By leaving Washington at 5 P. M., the daily correspondence of all the public Departments can be sent forward. This mail arrives here at 4 A. M.—that being the schedule time—in season to continue directly on East, North, and West, reaching Boston, Albany, and other large cities, the same afternoon. Mails leaving the Capital at 6 A. M., are in New York in season for the 8 P. M. train East, and are in Boston, &c., in time for delivery on the opening of the post offices each morning.

The 11 P. M. train from New York, is intended to, and does connect with the night mail trains arriving from Boston at 2, and Albany at 4 35 P. M., are in Washington next morning by the usual breakfast hour—usual, if we mistake not, for a majority of our Washington friends.

Other changes, of equal and less importance, calculated to secure dispatch and certainty of connections, are constantly being made, and that too at great expense to the Department. Thus while Jeff's apology for a P. O. system is acknowledged to be rickety and unreliable, the old stately and noble Post Office Establishment of the Union is efficient and progressive, answering the universal and legitimate purposes of commercial and social life.

Come back, Jeff, and we will restore to you your distant "connections."

CONVICTION AND SENTENCE.—Henry Brown, the young man charged with purloining the contents of some of the "lock-boxes" in the Providence (R. I.) post office, by opening them from the outside by means of false keys, was brought before the U. S. Circuit Court recently sitting in that city. The witnesses were on the spot, possessed of the most ample proof of his guilt—in fact, he had, since his arrest, made a full confession of his crimes to the Post-Office Agent. By his counsel it was therefore deemed useless to contest the case, and the plea of guilty was adopted.

Among the relations and friends of Brown present in court, were his father and sister—the latter an intelligent and much-respected young lady, apparently overwhelmed with grief, in

view of the awful situation of an only and beloved brother. For her, much pity and sympathy were felt—none for the culprit himself, owing to the aggravated nature of his oft-repeated offences, of which he was known to be guilty, and also his cool, undisturbed bearing at this trying moment. He is a young man of about twenty-two years of age, intelligent, and of very pleasing address.

We have before mentioned the fact that he was among the three months' Rhode Island Volunteers who first went to the defence of Washington, but obtained his discharge, owing to alleged ill health, before the expiration of the term of enlistment. There were found in his possession, when arrested, evidences of the faithfulness and devotion of this pious sister, in the shape of lengthy and well-written letters, breathing the purest spirit of love and affection, and filled with appropriate and timely advice, which, had it been heeded, would doubtless have saved him from a felon's doom.

In view of the sorrow inflicted upon the innocent, who unfortunately are usually the principal sufferers in similar cases, every argument consistent with public duty was used in mitigation of the pending sentence. Judge Clifford addressed some feeling and impressive remarks to the prisoner, at the conclusion of which, he sentenced him to prison for the term of three years.

FIRST POSTAL GEN FROM HILTON HEAD, S. C.—About 15,000 letters from the squadron at Port Royal, S. C., were received at the New York Post Office on the 19th ult., by the steamer Atlantic.

On the same day there were sent to Washington by the evening mail, 107 bundles, or 7736 letters—most of them for the army. When it is considered that New York sends three mails daily to Washington, a tolerably correct idea will be given of the letter-writing propensities of our gallant soldiers and their "loved ones at home."

Accompanying the above large mail from the Yankee settlement in South Carolina, was the following interesting letter from the acting postmaster, to the postmaster of New York:—

POST OFFICE, HILTON HEAD, S. C.

DEAR SIR—You will find much informality in this mail, owing to a condition of things which, with all our force, we have been unable to fully straighten out. Many letters have neither stamps or franks or indorsements of any kind. These are in many instances money letters from soldiers to their families.

If in your power, will you please send each to its proper destination? If you cannot do so, can you get special instructions from the Postmaster General to let the letters go forward this time? I would willingly take the money from my own pocket if I knew the amount required.

Capt. Saxton, the Quartermaster of this E. C., has placed me in charge of the post office. Since yesterday I have been employed in finding suitable quarters, cleaning them out, getting details of carpenters, tools, &c., and in a day or two will have matters in some sort of shape. Perhaps on more mail may go forward raggedly, but after once "under weigh," our mails shall be as little trouble as any you receive.

The present mail is sent from the Quartermaster's office, and knowing the immense rush of business there, I feared they might neglect to apologize for the condition of this lot of letters.

I am, yours truly, but in great haste,

JOS. H. SEARS.

P. S.—I ought to add that the present is the twenty-second hour I have been continuously at work, and I am so exhausted that I hardly know whether "I'm a-foot or a-horseback," which is my excuse for this hasty note. S.

[We don't know what position our friend has held on the "sacred soil," but we would not be much surprised to find that he had handled the postal ropes before, in the employ of Uncle Sam. At any rate we admire the business-like, practical style of his first official report, and we beg leave to recommend him to the Department as a very suitable person to be appointed first postmaster at Hilton Head, or Port Royal, S. C.—ED. MAIL.]

Since the above was in type, notice has been received from the Department, that Mr. Sears has been appointed post master, on recommendation of Gen. Sherman.

New York Post Office.

The following is a comparative statement of the business of this office during the years ending September 30, 1860 and 1861:

Letters mailed, independent of those coming from other offices to be re-mailed or distributed: 1860—15,507,654; 1861, 14,142,021. Decrease, 1,365,633.

Letters received by mail for delivery in the city: 1860—19,250,600; 1861, 15,500,000. Decrease, 2,750,600.

Letters received for distribution, (re mailed to other offices not including those from California)—1860—9,250,000; 1861—12,750,155. Increase, 3,500,155.

Letters sent to California, including those received from other offices to be re-mailed: 1860—499,959; 1861, 403,137. Decrease, 96,822.

Letters received from California by steamers and overland, including those to be re-mailed to other offices: 1860—360,930; 1861—270,902. Decrease, 90,028.

Foreign letters sent: 1860—2,342,449; 1861—2,676,245. Decrease, 266,204.

Foreign letters received: 1860—2,137,803; 1861—2,242,692. Increase, 54,889.

Registered letters sent and received: 1860—172,821; 1861—144,433. Decrease, 26,388.

Value of stamps and stamped envelopes sold: 1860—\$673,234.69; 1861—\$675,405.01. Increase, \$2,170.92.

Drop letters mailed: 1861—(about) 1,570,000. Circulars mailed: 1860—4,631,987; 1861—3,207,757. Decrease, 1,424,230.

Letters delivered by carriers: 1860—6,090,500; 1861—6,721,346. Increase, 630,746.

CIRCULARS.—Postmasters will not return unsealed circulars to the dead letter office, but dispose of them the same as dead newspapers.

HAWKINS SENTENCED.—Joseph S. Hawkins, recently convicted of purloining from the post office at Monument, Mass., a package of bank notes, &c., amounting to \$5,000, was sentenced on the 5th U. S. Circuit Court at Boston, on the 30th ult., to five years' imprisonment. The penalty provided by law in such cases is not less than two nor more than ten years' confinement.

The trial of E. O. Parker, late postmaster at Monument, now under indictment as an accomplice of Hawkins, will probably take place at the next term of the Court.

It will be seen by reference to the advertisement of the Hon. HORATIO KING, that Horatio C. King, No. 43 Wall street, New York, will receive applications and give prompt information in relation to business to be transacted at the Washington Agency.

CALIFORNIA MAILED.—It should not be forgotten by the postmasters and correspondents generally, that the mails for California, Oregon and Washington Territories, go exclusively by the overland mail route, leaving St. Joseph, Mo., daily, (Sundays excepted.) These mails are made up and despatched daily from the New York Post Office, morning and evening.

New Post Offices--and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following post offices, during the month of November:—

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Blackston's X Roads.	Kent	Del.
Bonnaville.	Clark	Ohio.
Broad Ford.	Fayette	Pa.
Brown's Creek.	Harrison	Va.
Brownsdale.	Butler	Pa.
Conalotts.	Santa Cruz	Cal.
Cottageville.	Santa Cruz	Va.
Delaware City.		Colorado
Eau Claire.	Berrien	Mich.
Eummittsburg.	Palo Alto	Iowa.
Ephraim.	Door	Wis.
Fort Jackson.	Santa Rosa	Cal.
Frontier.	Hillsdale	Mich.
Ghent.	Carroll	Ky.
Greenwood.	Polk	Iowa.
Homer.	Franklin	Pa.
Jacksonville.	Putnam	Ind.
Kasson.	Preston	Va.
Lauret.		Colorado
Loche.	Ingham	Mich.
Loche.	Solenno	Cal.
Medicine Lake.	Henepin	Minn.
New Florence.	Montgomery	Mo.
Newton Depot.	Rockingham	N. H.
Palmyra.	Alleghany	Pa.
Patriot.	Union	Iowa.
Payne's Depot.	Scott	Ky.
Penn.	Fayette	Iowa.
Port Royal.	Brown	S. C.
Public.	Washington	Wis.
Reeseville.	Chester	Pa.
Salina.	Salina	Kansas.
San Luis Rey.	San Diego	Cal.
Shippert's Ford.	El Dorado	Mo.
St. Clair.	Mason	Ill.
Staters' Run.	Marion	Va.
Taber.	Tuscarawas	Ohio.
Traghton's Store.	Preston	Va.
Union Farm.	Cass	Mich.
Washington.	Washington	Kansas.
Washee.	Henry	Nevada.
Wetherfield.	Henry	Nevada.
Woodville.	Jackson	Ind.

DISCONTINUED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Alvada.	Barren	Kan.
Alland.	Boone	Mo.
Atkinson.	Christian	Ky.
Avoca.	Livingston	Ill.
Bear's Station.	Oldham	Ky.
Belle.	Lincoln	Mo.
Bellevue.	Iron	Mo.
Belleville.	Webster	Iowa.
Bolton.	Laurens	Ky.
Bovine.	Gibson	Ind.
Buckley.	Callaway	Mo.
Bristol.	Webster	Mo.
Buras.	Crawford	Pa.
Buzzard's Roost.	Nichols	Ky.
Clay.	Bourbon	Kan.
Clo.	Wayne	Pa.
Corn Hill.	Fayette	Iowa.
Coverdale.	Sussex	Del.
Derrynam.	La Steuir	Min.
Duckey.	Oldham	Ky.
Engle Mills.	Goodhue	Min.
Everett.	Cass	Mo.
Floydsburgh.	Oldham	Ky.
Forks of Elkborn.	Franklin	Min.
Franklin.	Wright	Min.
Grassy Creek.	Livingston	Mo.
Great Crossings.	Scott	Ky.
Green Springs.	Baltimore	Md.
Greenville.	Jackson	Mo.
Hallsville.	Boone	Mo.
Highland Station.	Greene	Ind.
Hill's Landing.	Carroll	Mo.
Hosick.	Greene	Via.
Indian Valley.	Anderson	Kan.
Island Grove.	Greene	Ind.
Joe's Lick.	Madison	Ky.
Knightmans.	Alleghany	Md.
Knickerbocker.	Stoddard	Mo.
Lennep.	Washington	Via.
Little Prairie.	Hopkins	Ky.
Livingston.	Livingston	Mo.
Mans.	Chester	Pa.
Mickey Institute.	Franklin	Ky.
Millwood.	Mason	Mo.
Milo.	Brown	Ind.
Mintonville.	Casey	Ky.
Nevada.	De Fayette	Mo.
Ogle's Mills.	Nevada	Mo.
Pewee Valley.	Oldham	Ky.
Platte River.	Buchanan	Mo.
Pleasant Valley.	Wright	Mo.
Pleasant Valley Mills.	Nicholas	Ky.
Poplar Hill.	Casey	Mo.
Prairie Fork.	Montgomery	Mo.
Price.	Huntington	Ind.
Rick's Ferry.	Wabash	Mo.
Robinson's Creek.	Pike	Ky.
Tucker's Prairie.	Franklin	Mo.
Seneca.	Lawrence	Mich.
Spragueville.	Jackson	Iowa.
Stringfield's Store.	Callaway	Mo.
Sugar Island.	Chippewa	Mich.
Sweet Home.	Dane	Wis.
Tempsall.	San Bernardino	Cal.
Thyng's Ferry.	Greene	Ky.
Tompkinsville.	Charles	Mo.
Warrenton.	Lake	Ill.
White Sulphur.	Scott	Ky.
Williamsville.	Kent	Del.
Winetel.	McLeod	Mich.
Woodstock.	Palaski	Ky.
Wye Mills.	Queen Anne	Md.
West Vincent.	Chester	Pa.
Yonkersville.	Montgomery	Ind.
Ypsilanti.	Wright	Min.

NAMES CHANGED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	TO NEW NAME.
Bennett's Mills.	Essex	Va.	Anderson's Store
Dig Valley.	Lake	Cal.	Lakeport
Dute Mill.	Balto	Cal.	Merrill
Dorrance.	Shirko	Ill.	Moline
Egypt.	Mason	Ill.	Manito
Felleville.	Greene	Ky.	Mount Sherman
Peter.	Beaver	Pa.	Holt
Townsend Station.	New Castle	Del.	Townsend
Wilmington.	Mon.	Bristol	W. Va.
Willow Creek.	Huron	Mich.	Huron City.

POSTAL DIRECTORY.

These columns have been carefully condensed from the old and new Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department, under the guidance and direction of the chief officers, past and present, of the Department, to whose careful revision they have been submitted since they were put in type. They will be kept as standing matter, and altered from time to time, as the action of Congress and the direction of the Postmaster-General and his Assistants, or further explanations, may render necessary. Such additions will be conspicuously noted as they occur.

Should further or more detailed information on any point, whether embraced or omitted in this synopsis, be required, it will be cheerfully supplied on application, in person or by letter, to the editor of the Mail.

HOW COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

TO FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—Such as relate to the establishment and discontinuance or changes of sites, and names of post offices, appointment and removal of postmasters, and route and local agents; also, such as relate to foreign mails and applications for balances or postages, marking and general regulations for the plying for appointments, the applicant himself should address the Department, in addition to the recommendations.

TO THE SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—Such as relate to the putting in operation, change or discontinuance of mail routes, the designation of mail messengers, the distribution and dispatch of the mails, &c.

TO THE THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—Should be sent all quarterly returns of postage, as well as the weekly and monthly returns of the depositaries of the Department, and applications and receipts for postage stamps, stamped envelopes, and dead letters; also, duplicate certificates for deposits made by postmasters in the treasury or deposit offices, &c.; likewise all dead letters, in respect to which receipts, stamped and unsealed, issued May 1, 1861, for full and important instructions.

TO THE CHIEF CLERK, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—Should be sent all communications respecting lost money letters, mail depositions, or other violations of law, or mail bags, locks and keys; also, all registers of the arrivals and departures for the mails, certificates of the service of route agents, reports of mail failures, applications for blank registers, all complaints against contractors, &c.

TO THE AUDITOR POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—Should be sent all accounts, (except postmasters' quarterly returns) letters relating to accounts either of postmasters or contractors, and all acknowledgments of drafts issued in payment of balances, &c.; also, the receipts of postmasters for public property turned over to them by their predecessors, letters reporting non-payment of postage, and receipts for postage and returns of District Attorneys and Marshals, of their proceedings in post office cases.

When, however, an occasion arises for a special letter of report to the Department, it should, if relating to confidential matters, or to Regulations issued by the Department, be addressed directly to the Postmaster-General.

MISCELLANEOUS.

No person can be appointed postmaster who cannot legally execute an office in the State, and be an actual resident of the city or town wherein the post office is situated or within the delivery of the office.

Married women or minors cannot be postmasters. A postmaster may hold any office under a State government, such as justice of the Peace, or member of the Legislature, provided there is no law of his State to the contrary.

No person can be employed either as clerk in a post office or as mail carrier, less than sixteen years old.

Every postmaster should have at least one sworn assistant, ready to take charge of the office in case of necessity.

No person, not duly sworn, should be allowed to handle the mails.

No postmaster, assistant postmaster or clerk in a post office can hold a mail contract, or be concerned in carrying the mail.

The securities of a postmaster, in the event of his death, or vacancy from other cause, are responsible for the proper management of the office till a successor is appointed and qualified.

In addressing the Department, care should be used to avoid writing upon more than one subject in the same letter. Different subjects go to different offices, as above stated.

Copies of papers on file cannot be furnished to applicants unless on certificate of counsel that the same are required in a suit commenced, and actually pending in a court of record.

MAKING UP MAILED.

Letters must bear the post-mark and post-bills the date of the day on which the mail containing them is actually sent off.

Postage stamps must be cancelled by an instrument made for that purpose, and used with black printer's ink, or effectually with a pen. The dating must not be used as a cancelling stamp.

It is imperative on postmasters to stamp their letters plainly.

DELIVERY OF LETTERS.

The persons entitled to letters by mail are those whose names are in the address.

The delivery should be either to the person addressed or according to his



UNITED STATES MAIL.

master manager of the ship or steamboat (if not foreign) is entitled to receive from the postmaster two cents a letter, (except on Lake Erie, where it is one cent) for which he must receipt, and, if under contract, he may receive one cent, "way." Masters of foreign vessels must deliver the letters brought by them, but cannot be paid.

Letters brought by steamboat or ship, should be marked "steamboat" as the case may be, at the time of receiving them. All letters placed on a mail steamboat, on which the mails are in charge of a route agent, should go into the hands of such agent; and on these letters the master of the vessel is not entitled to receive any compensation. None but proprial letters should be received on such steamboat, and these should be duly mailed. But should any chance to be unpaid, they should be deposited by the route agent at the post office at or nearest the point at which they are received, where the postmaster will treat them in all respects as other unpaid letters.

Persons desiring to send their letters by steamboats can most advantageously do so by enclosing such letters in the stamped envelopes issued by the Department, inasmuch as letters so inclosed may be conveyed out of the mail without a violation of law, and need not be delivered to the postmaster on the arrival of the vessel.

ADVERTISING LETTERS. Section 181 (chap. xiii) of the Regulations requires post offices to receive advertising letters as follows: 1. Once in six weeks when the gross receipts do not exceed \$500 per quarter.

2. Once a month when the receipts are over \$500, and not over \$1,000 per quarter.

3. Twice a month when the receipts are over \$1,000, and not over \$7,500 per quarter.

4. Once a week when the receipts exceed \$7,500 per quarter.

Returning unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of advertisement, it follows that the offices of the first class above named must make such returns every six weeks;

Those of the second class, every month; Those of the third class, twice a month;

Those of the fourth class, once a month. Refused letters are not to be advertised, nor those which the postmaster expects will be immediately taken from the office.

Drop and box letters, circulars, free packets containing printed documents, speeches or other printed matter, are not to be advertised.

When authority for the publication of lists of foreign letters in a newspaper printed in a foreign language is deemed desirable, the postmaster must make special application for the necessary order to publish in such paper.

When daily, semi-weekly, tri-weekly, or weekly papers are issued from the same office, the proprietor must be allowed to aggregate the circulation of such papers, but the single circulation of each issue of the particular paper for which he claims the publication. Whether the paper is issued daily, tri-weekly, semi-weekly, or weekly, must be shown.

The advertising insertions in the particular paper which has the largest circulation.

One cent only is allowed for advertising each letter, and the printer's receipt must state the number of letters, and the amount paid for advertising.

The whole amount paid for advertising must be charged on No. 10 of the account current.

The cost of advertising must be marked upon each letter advertised, and be collected with the postage.

DEAD LETTERS. Letters which have been advertised, and remained unclaimed two months, are to be returned to the Dead Letter Office, and the postmaster is not to be held liable for persons on board certain vessels intended for arrival, and letters especially marked to be held a longer period.

Postmasters are especially directed to advertise letters according to the standing Regulations of the department, under section 181, chap. 13, and to return unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of such advertisement.

Thus, offices of the smallest class will return every six weeks; those of the second class, once a month; those of the third class, twice a month; those of the fourth class, every week.

Letters of the following description are excepted from these instructions, and must be separately returned to the Dead Letter Office from all offices at least as often as once a week, viz: 1. Letters held for postage, including "Drop Letters."

2. Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes.

3. Unpaid letters for foreign countries on which pre-payment is required by the regulations.

4. Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.

5. Letters misdirected (or directed to places where there are no post offices).

6. Refused letters, and such as cannot be delivered, (as when the parties addressed are known to be deceased or moved away).

Sections 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 303, and 312 of the standing Regulations are not heretofore to be regarded.

Section 131 is modified so as to limit the one-cent rate chargeable per ounce on books to distances under fifteen hundred miles, (instead of three thousand).

Letters of letters can have them returned, if uncalled for within any given period, by indorsing such request with their address on the letters.

Postage is chargeable on all letters returned from the Dead Letter Office.

When a letter is refused, the word "refused" should be at once plainly written upon it, and the letter put with those to be returned at the end of the month.

If, previous to its return, the seal of a dead letter be broken by accident, or by having been delivered to the wrong person, the fact and circumstances must be noted upon it.

Every dead letter must bear on the sealed side the stamp or post-mark of the post office to which it was returned, and the date of its return to the Department.

Dead "Registered Letters" must be given up in a separate package, with a separate bill, giving the address and register number of each letter. This package is to be carefully tied up and sealed, and addressed to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, but mailed to the Postmaster at Washington City, with return bill, in the same manner as other registered letters.

LOST LETTERS AND MAIL DEPRECIATIONS. Money and other valuable things sent in the mail, whether registered or not, are at the risk of the owner. But, if lost, the Department, on being duly advised of the circumstances, will make every effort in its power to discover the cause thereof, and restore the same if found.

Cases of mail robbery should be at once reported to the Chief Clerk.

If a postmaster has reason to believe that a mail has been robbed or stolen, in the vicinity of his office, he should at once examine into the evidence of the fact; and if satisfied that such robbery or theft has actually occurred, should take immediate and energetic measures for recovering the mail, and for apprehending and prosecuting the offender.

All necessary expenses that may be incurred in recovering the mail, and in apprehending the robber, will be reimbursed by the department. After the fact, all such expenses are chargeable to the Judiciary fund, and should be presented through the U. S. Marshal.

In some cases it may be proper to offer a reward, not to exceed fifty dollars, payable on conviction, for the apprehension of the criminal.

In every case when the original is apprehended, the Attorney of the United States for the district in which the offence was committed, should be promptly informed of the fact, and his advice obtained.

WAY LETTERS. Way letters are such letters as a mail-carrier receives on his way between two post offices. The carrier will deliver them to the first post office at which he arrives. The postmaster will pay the carrier one cent a letter, if demanded, and note them with postage, writing against the rate the word "way." This cent, when paid, must be added to the ordinary postage on the letter.

It is the duty of a mail carrier to receive and convey a letter to the first office at which he arrives, if tendered to him more than a mile from a post office.

ROUTE AGENTS.

On railroad and steamboat routes it is the duty of route agents—1st. To receive letters written after the mail has closed, and to deposit them in the proper mail and post-bill mail letters, and direct them to the proper office for delivery or preparation, and to make report of all such letters. 2d. To assort the mails for the several offices, being intrusted with the key to the lock or that purpose. 3d. To attend to delivery and reception of mail bags. 4th. To report to the Inspection Office all irregularities of service on the route, especially every instance in which they fail to receive or deliver a mail when one is due, with the causes of such failure—which, if not known, must be ascertained by inquiry.

Their duty is to carry the mail to and from post offices, when such offices are more than eighty rods from the steamboat landing or railroad station. They are not required to execute a contract, and are not appointed for a definite period.

Such service is not to be employed without express authority from the Contract Office.

The railroad and steamboat contractors are to have it performed at all offices within a quarter of a mile of their depots, stations, or landings, as well as at the terminal offices of their routes.

The compensation of messengers engaged by the Department should be limited to the net yield of the offices supplied.

Such service cannot draw pay for the performance of such duty.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE. The following officers and persons enjoy the right as a personal privilege, subject in the case of some of them to the several restrictions stated and annexed: 1. The President and Vice-President of the United States; the individuals who in former periods have filled the office of President and Vice-President; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Polk, relicts of former Presidents. Restricted in the case of the Vice-President, or ex-Vice-President, to letters and packets not weighing over two ounces, and to public documents.

2. Members of Congress and Delegates from Territories, commencing with their term of office, (that is, from 4th of March, or from time of receiving certificate of election to fill vacancy occurring after 4th March), and ending the first Monday in December after the expiration of their official term. Restricted to letters and packets not exceeding two ounces in weight, and public documents. Public documents are those printed by the order of either House of Congress, and not those printed by order of either House of Congress, or either House for the use of the members.

3. The Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, during their official terms. Restricted as members of Congress and Delegates.

4. Every postmaster whose commissions for the previous fiscal year, ending 30th June, did not exceed \$300. Restricted to sending letters written by himself, his private secretary, or his receiving writer, or communications addressed to himself on his private business; such letters or written communications not to exceed half an ounce in weight. He cannot, therefore, receive or send free any description of printed matter, or any other matter, or receive free letters written by or addressed to his wife, or any other member of his family, or by or to a firm of which he is a member. Neither is he authorized to frank letters containing money or other things, nor letters written by himself on the business of others, whether they be letters of subscription to editors or publishers, or other description. The penalty for a violation of this law is \$300.

The privilege of the following officers is restricted to sending and receiving free official communications only, viz: 1. The Heads of the several Executive Departments of the General Government, and of each of the bureaus and chief clerks of said Departments, including the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Coast Survey.

2. The Governors of States to the Governors of other States, restricted to laws and reports, bound or unbound, records and documents of the State, which the Legislature thereof may direct to be sent to the Executive of other States.

3. All postmasters, when their commissions exceed \$200 per annum—restricted to letters and packets relating exclusively to the business of their offices or the Post Office Department.

The personal privilege of franking travels with the person possessing it, and can be exercised in but one place at the same time.

No postmaster or privileged person can leave his frank behind him upon envelopes to cover his correspondence in his absence.

Letters or papers, or letters written by or received at a post office, of greater weight than such person has a right by law to frank, the postmaster will charge the excess with letter postage. Properly franked mail matter, or mail matter addressed to a person enjoying the franking privilege, is entitled to be carried free in the mail when "forwarded" to the person elsewhere, as well as in its transportation simply to the office to which originally addressed.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULES. If a change of a schedule is desired, application should be made to the Contract Office, supported by the postmasters at the ends of the route. The contract running-time cannot be increased.

ATTENTION TO THE MANNER OF CARRYING THE MAIL. Every postmaster will consider himself the agent of the Department in regard to its affairs in his immediate vicinity so far as to carefully observe and promptly report to it, every thing tending to affect its interests, efficiency, and utility.

It is especially expected that he will keep a vigilant eye upon the manner in which the mails are delivered by his sub-contractors. It is among the most important of his duties.

He will report promptly to the Inspection Office all irregularities of mail-carriers, in charge of the mail, and cases, when known.

Whenever the mail is carried by any other person than the contractor or his authorized agent or carrier, the fact is to be noted on the register.

Notice is given that mail to be sent at the end of a route, at any intermediate post office, where the time of arrival is fixed within the time specified in the contract or schedule, it will be expected of every contractor, immediately by himself or agent, to report to the Inspection Office, setting forth, particularly, the cause of the failure; and if, after waiting a reasonable time, no specific and satisfactory excuse be received, the Chief Clerk is directed to present the case thus reported to the Postmaster-General for fine.

Any case where the mail-carrier is not sworn should be immediately reported.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES. These stamps and envelopes are furnished only to postmasters for sale. Postmasters who fail to supply themselves from the Department must purchase temporary supplies from the nearest offices for cash.

Postmasters who purchase stamps or stamped envelopes from other postmasters, under the preceding regulation, are not required to render to the Department any account of such purchases and sales.

The envelopes are to be sold from case to postmaster, and all other persons, at the prices stated in the receipt which is sent with them to each office.

A letter bearing a stamp cut or separated from a stamped envelope, cannot be sent, through the mail, except by special authority, and in such cases it is his duty to procure the act of mailing by a disinterested witness. His own oath to that effect is not sufficient, and will not entitle him to credit, in case the package should be lost. (See section 401 of the Regulations of 1859.)

Blank, wrapping-paper, twine, and rating stamps.

Post blanks will be furnished to postmasters, on their written requisitions, from the following agencies: 1. Postmasters in the Districts of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida will apply to the "First Assistant Postmaster-General, Washington, D. C."

Postmasters in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California, Oregon, and Washington, will apply to the "Bank Agent at New York, N. Y."

Postmasters in Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas, will apply to the "Bank Agent at New York, N. Y."

When the postage stamps collected at an office amount to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on the post-bills. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$12 50 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping-paper, sealing-wax, and twine, at the above agencies.

COMMISSIONERS OF POSTMASTERS. Postmasters are entitled, by law, since July 1, 1854, to the following commissions on the amount of postage received by them in each quarter of the year, and in due proportion for any fractional part of a quarter; but no postmaster can receive a larger compensation from commissions than \$500 per quarter.

On a sum not exceeding \$100 sixty per cent; on a sum over the first, and not exceeding \$400, fifty per cent; on a sum over and above the first \$400, and not exceeding \$2,400, forty per cent; on all sums over \$2,400 fifteen per cent; consequently these rates of commission are—

60 per cent on the first \$100
50 " " next 300
40 " " next 2,000
15 " " on all over 2,400

The rate of commissions upon letter postages prepaid by stamps canceled at the mailing office is the same as if the whole letter postages were collected in money; that is, in summing up the amounts on which commissions are calculated, the amount of letter postages on those prepaid by stamps sent, will be included in the general amount the same as though the whole letter postages were collected in money; but they should be entered in the proper line of the account current.

The rate of commission on newspaper postages actually collected, is fifty per cent, in all cases, whether the amount be large or small.

On letters received for distribution at the General Distribution Office, a commission of 12 1/2 per cent is allowed.

On the postage of letters received at a frontier post office and sent to Canada, a commission of 2 1/2 per cent, and that received from Canada for distribution, a commission of 7 per cent, is allowed. The amounts should be made up of postages received from and sent to Canada offices, and not United States offices.

No allowance is made to postmasters for delivering free letters or newspapers, or printed matter franked by a member of Congress.

Ten cents is allowed for each monthly register of the arrival and departure of the mails, when such registers are sent and returned to the Department.

At offices where the mail is, by contract, to arrive regularly between the hours of 9 o'clock in the evening and 9 o'clock in the morning, 70 instead of 60 per cent is allowed on the first \$100 of letter postage. Provided, such postmaster transmits, with his quarterly return, his certificate in due form to that effect.

The postmaster who collects the postage on newspapers, periodicals, magazines, &c., quarterly or yearly in advance, is entitled to the commissions on the same, although he may go out of office immediately thereafter, and the paper or periodical be delivered by his successor. He can only leave in the office a record of all such payments. If he fails to leave such record, he will not be entitled to credit for such commissions, and the subscribers are liable to lose the benefit of such prepayment.

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BIDDING FOR MAIL CONTRACTS, ETC. In bidding for mail contracts, bidders should first examine carefully the instructions accompanying the advertisement, and the manner in which the mails are to be carried, and the route to be followed. He can only bid for the route as described in the advertisement, and the route as described in the advertisement, and the route as described in the advertisement.

The words "with due celerity, certainty, and security," inserted to indicate the mode of conveyance, will constitute a "star bid." Routes are let once in four years, the Union being divided into four sections for the purpose. The Contract Office, on application, furnishes blanks for a bid of expense.

The authority to establish post routes is not vested in the Postmaster-General, nor can he extend or alter any route established at any post office. All mail services on such routes as have been declared post routes by act of Congress. All railroads, plank roads, canals, navigable rivers, and other waters, are, however, post-roads by law; and established routes to the coast-houses of any country which may be otherwise without a mail.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULES. If a change of a schedule is desired, application should be made to the Contract Office, supported by the postmasters at the ends of the route. The contract running-time cannot be increased.

ATTENTION TO THE MANNER OF CARRYING THE MAIL. Every postmaster will consider himself the agent of the Department in regard to its affairs in his immediate vicinity so far as to carefully observe and promptly report to it, every thing tending to affect its interests, efficiency, and utility.

It is especially expected that he will keep a vigilant eye upon the manner in which the mails are delivered by his sub-contractors. It is among the most important of his duties.

He will report promptly to the Inspection Office all irregularities of mail-carriers, in charge of the mail, and cases, when known.

Whenever the mail is carried by any other person than the contractor or his authorized agent or carrier, the fact is to be noted on the register.

Notice is given that mail to be sent at the end of a route, at any intermediate post office, where the time of arrival is fixed within the time specified in the contract or schedule, it will be expected of every contractor, immediately by himself or agent, to report to the Inspection Office, setting forth, particularly, the cause of the failure; and if, after waiting a reasonable time, no specific and satisfactory excuse be received, the Chief Clerk is directed to present the case thus reported to the Postmaster-General for fine.

Any case where the mail-carrier is not sworn should be immediately reported.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES. These stamps and envelopes are furnished only to postmasters for sale. Postmasters who fail to supply themselves from the Department must purchase temporary supplies from the nearest offices for cash.

Postmasters who purchase stamps or stamped envelopes from other postmasters, under the preceding regulation, are not required to render to the Department any account of such purchases and sales.

The envelopes are to be sold from case to postmaster, and all other persons, at the prices stated in the receipt which is sent with them to each office.

A letter bearing a stamp cut or separated from a stamped envelope, cannot be sent, through the mail, except by special authority, and in such cases it is his duty to procure the act of mailing by a disinterested witness. His own oath to that effect is not sufficient, and will not entitle him to credit, in case the package should be lost. (See section 401 of the Regulations of 1859.)

Blank, wrapping-paper, twine, and rating stamps.

Post blanks will be furnished to postmasters, on their written requisitions, from the following agencies: 1. Postmasters in the Districts of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida will apply to the "First Assistant Postmaster-General, Washington, D. C."

Postmasters in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California, Oregon, and Washington, will apply to the "Bank Agent at New York, N. Y."

Postmasters in Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas, will apply to the "Bank Agent at New York, N. Y."

When the postage stamps collected at an office amount to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on the post-bills. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$12 50 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping-paper, sealing-wax, and twine, at the above agencies.

APPLICATIONS FOR BLANK REGISTERS OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MAILS.

Applications for blank registers of arrival and departure of mails must be made direct to the "Inspection Office." For general post office blanks, and for special instructions, to the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

All postmasters whose compensation is less than \$150 per quarter, can purchase stamps with circulars, marking and rating stamps of class No. 1; less than \$1,000 and over \$500, with stamps of class No. 2; less than \$500 and over \$100, with stamps of class No. 3; and exchange post offices with stamps of class No. 4. Applications for these stamps should be made to the Appointment Office.

Postmasters in the gross receipts of which are less than \$100 per annum, if they use rating stamps, must obtain the same at their own expense. Letter blanks, upon the like application, are furnished to offices which collect in postage \$75 a year.

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Are allowed by the Department only in special cases, and never in any office where there are no surplus commissions. Application to be made to the Appointment Office.

EXCHANGE OFFICES FOR BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN MAILS. New York, Boston, Albany, Troy, and Portland exchange with some of the largest offices on the other side by through lines. Portland and the Route Agents change to the Canada line exchange with the Route Agents beyond. Buffalo exchanges with Toronto, Hamilton, Queenstown, London, and other offices on Lake Erie; Sackett's Harbor and Oswego with Kingston during navigation; Whitehall, Plattsburgh, Rouse's Point, N. Y., and Burlington, with St. John's; Montreal with St. John's and Montreal; Island Pond with Montreal, St. Jerome, and Route Agents. The following exchanges with their nearest corresponding offices on the other side: Black Rock, Suspension Bridge, Movers, Lewiston, Youngstown, Rochester (with Colburn in summer), Cape Vincent, Morrisville, Ogdensburg, and Fort Covington, N. Y.; Richmond, Franklin, Derby Line, North Troy, Swanton, and Canaan, Vt.; Cleveland, O. (with Fort Stanley in summer.) Sault St. Mary, Fort Huron, Detroit, and Algoma, Mich.; Fort Fairfield, Robbinston, Calais, Houlton, and Eastport, Me.

CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE. Irregularities having arisen in respect to Canadian correspondence, these directions must hereafter be observed: 1st. Letters addressed to Canada must be mailed side by side with United States Exchange Office. Letters cannot be sent direct to Post Offices in Canada.

2d. The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is one cent, prepayment optional, but the postage is not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

3d. The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is one cent, prepayment optional, but the postage is not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

4d. The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is one cent, prepayment optional, but the postage is not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

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19d. The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is one cent, prepayment optional, but the postage is not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

20d. The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is one cent, prepayment optional, but the postage is not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

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22d. The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is one cent, prepayment optional, but the postage is not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

23d. The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is one cent, prepayment optional, but the postage is not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

24d. The postage on a single letter to and

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vesel) received by them, or by any person employed on their boats, at any point on the route. Penalty for mailing to do this, \$30.

When not under contract with the Department, the master or manager of the ship or steamer (if not foreign) is entitled to receive from the postmaster two cents a letter, (except on Lake Erie, where it is one cent,) for which he must receipt, and, if under contract, he may receive one cent "per day." Masters of foreign vessels must deliver the letters brought by them, but cannot be paid.

Letters brought by steambot or ship, should be marked "steambot," or "ship," as the case may be, at the time of mailing them.

All letters placed on a mail steambot, on which the mails are in charge of a route agent, should go into the hands of such agent; and on these letters the master of the vessel is not entitled to receive any compensation. Letters placed on a steambot, but received on such steambot, and these should be duly mailed. But should any chance to be unpaid, they should be deposited by the route agent in the post office at or nearest the point at which they are received, where the postmaster will treat them in all respects as other unpaid letters.

Persons desiring to send their letters by steambots, must not readily accomplish their object by enclosing such letters in stamped envelopes issued by the Department, inasmuch as letters so enclosed may be conveyed out of the mail without a violation of law, and need not be delivered to the postmaster on the arrival of the vessel.

ADVERTISING LETTERS.

Section 181 (chap. xiii) of the Regulations requires post offices to advertise letters as follows:

1. Once in six weeks when the gross receipts do not exceed \$500 per quarter.
2. Once a month when the receipts are over \$500, and not over \$1,000 per quarter.
3. Twice a month when the receipts are over \$1,000, and not over \$2,000 per quarter.
4. Once a week when the receipts exceed \$2,000 per quarter.

Returning unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of such advertisement, it follows that offices of the first class above named must make such returns every six weeks.

Those of the second class, every month; those of the third class, twice a month; those of the fourth class, every week.

Refused letters not to be advertised, nor those which the postmaster expects will be immediately taken from the office.

Drop and box letters, circulars, free packets containing printed documents, speeches or other printed matters are not to be advertised.

When authority for the publication of lists of foreign letters in a newspaper printed in a foreign language is deemed advisable, the postmaster must make a special application for the necessary order to publish in such paper.

When daily, semi-weekly, tri-weekly, or weekly papers are issued from the same office, the proprietor must not be allowed to aggregate the circulation of such papers, but to take the circulation of each issue of the particular paper for which he claims the publication. Whether the paper is issued daily, tri-weekly, semi-weekly, or weekly, must be shown, and the advertisement inserted in the particular paper which has the largest circulation.

One cent only is allowed for advertising each letter, and the printer's receipt must state the number of letters, and the amount paid for advertising.

The whole amount paid for advertising must be charged on No. 10 of the account current.

The cost of distribution must be marked upon each letter advertised, and be collected with the postage.

DEAD LETTERS.

Letters which have been advertised, and remained unclaimed two months, are to be returned to the Dead Letter Office, excepting letters at seaports intended for persons on board certain designated vessels expected to arrive, and letters especially marked to be held a longer period.

Postmasters are specially directed to advertise letters according to the standing regulations of the department, under section 181, chap. 13, and to return unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of each advertisement.

Thus, offices of the smallest class will return every six weeks; those of the second class, once a month; those of the third class, twice a month; those of the fourth class, every week.

Letters of the following description are exempted from these instructions, and must be separately returned to the Dead Letter Office from all offices at least as often as once a week, viz:

1. Letters for foreign countries upon which prepayment is compulsory, and drop letters.
2. Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps out from stamped envelopes.
3. Unpaid letters for foreign countries on which prepayment is required by the regulations.
4. Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.
5. Letters misdirected (or directed to places where there are no post offices) and such as cannot be delivered, (as when the parties addressed are known to be deceased or moved away).
6. Refused letters, and such as cannot be delivered, (as when the parties addressed are known to be deceased or moved away).

Sections 185, 189, 187, 188, 189, 309, and 312 of the standing Regulations are not heretofore to be regarded.

Section 134 is modified so as to limit the one-cent rate chargeable per ounce on books to distances under fifteen hundred miles, (instead of three thousand.)

Writers of letters can have them returned, if uncalled for within any given period, by informing such request with their address on the letter.

Postage is recoverable on all letters returned from the Dead Letter Office.

When a letter is refused, the word "refused" should be at once plainly written upon it, and the letter put with those to be returned at the end of the month.

If previous to the return of a dead letter it has been broken by accident, or by having been delivered to the wrong person, the fact and circumstance must be noted upon it.

Every dead letter must bear on the sealed side the stamp or post-mark of the post office by which it was returned, and the date of its return to the Department.

Dead "Registered Letters" must be mailed up in a separate package with a separate bill, giving the address and register number of each letter. This package is to be carefully tied up and sealed, and addressed to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, but mailed to the Postmaster at Washington City, with return bill, in the same manner as other registered letters.

Domestic letters, (drop letters excepted,) held for postage, instead of being sent to the Department, are hereafter to be retained, and notice sent to the parties addressed. The answer to such notices must be prepaid, and a postage stamp of the proper amount inclosed, with which to prepay the "held letter."

This class of letters, when not written for, must not be in the office more than one month from the time of notification, but must be sent to the Dead Letter Office. The period may be shortened at discretion, where notices are sent short distances, and answers might be expected in a few days.

All letters held for postage should be post-marked on the day of their receipt, and boxed according to dates.

CHECKS.—Postmasters will not return misdirected circulars to the Dead Letter Office, but dispose of them the same as dead newspapers.

LOST LETTERS AND MAIL DEPRECIATIONS.

Money and other valuable things sent in the mail, whether registered or not, are at the risk of the owner. But, if lost, the Department, on being duly advised of the circumstances, will make every effort in its power to discover the cause thereof, and restore the same if found.

Cases of mail robbery should be at once reported to the Chief Clerk.

If a postmaster has reason to believe that a mail has been robbed or stolen, in the vicinity of his office, he should at once examine into the evidence of the fact; and if satisfied that such robbery or theft has actually occurred, should take immediate and energetic measures for recovering the mail, and for apprehending and prosecuting the offender.

All necessary expenses that may be incurred in recovering the mail, and in apprehending the robber, will be reimbursed by the Department. After the arrest, all such expenses are chargeable to the Judiciary fund, and should be presented through the U. S. Marshal.

In some cases it may be proper to offer a reward,

not to exceed fifty dollars, payable on conviction, for the apprehension of the criminal.

In every case when the criminal is apprehended, the Attorney of the United States for the district in which the office was committed should be promptly informed of the facts, and his advice obtained.

WAY LETTERS.

Way letters are such letters as a mail-carrier receives on his way between two post offices. The carrier will deliver them to the first post office at which he arrives. The postmaster will pay the carrier one cent a letter, if demanded, and rate them with postage, writing against the rate the word "way." This cent, when paid, must be added to the ordinary postage on the letter.

It is the duty of a mail carrier to receive and convey a letter to the first office at which he arrives, if tendered to him more than a mile from a post office.

ROUTE AGENTS.

On railroad and steambot routes it is the duty of route agents—1. To receive letters written after the mail has been closed, and way-letters prepaid by stamps to mail and post-bill paid letters, and direct them to the proper office for delivery or distribution, and to make report of all such letters. 2. To assort the mails for the several offices being intrusted with the mails to the iron lock for that purpose. 3. To attend to delivery and reception of mail bags. 4. To report to the Inspection Office all irregularities of service on the route, especially every instance in which they fail to receive or deliver a mail where one is due, with the causes of such failure—which, if not known, must be ascertained by inquiry.

MAIL MESSAGERS.

Their duty is to carry the mail to mail from post offices, when such offices are more than eighty rods from the steambot landing or railroad.

They are not required to execute a contract, and are not appointed for a definite period.

Such service is not to be employed without express authority from the Contract Office.

The railroad and steambot contractors are to have it performed at all offices within a quarter of a mile of their depots, stations, or landings, as well as at the terminal offices of their routes.

The compensation of messengers engaged by the Department should be limited to the net yield of the offices supplied.

Postmasters cannot draw pay for the performance of such duty.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The following officers and persons enjoy the right as a personal privilege, subject in the case of some of them to the several restrictions stated and annexed:

1. The President and Vice-President of the United States; the individuals who at former periods have filled the office of President and Vice-President; Mrs. Harriet M. Fols, widow of the President; the Presidents, to letters and packets not weighing over two ounces, and to public documents.
2. Members of Congress and Delegates from Territories, commencing with the first meeting of the 2d of March, or from time of receiving certificate of election to all vacancies occurring after 4th March, and ending the first Monday of December following the expiration of their official term. Restricted to letters and packets not exceeding two ounces in weight, and public documents. Public documents are those printed by the order of either House of Congress, and publications and books procured or purchased by Congress or either House for the use of the members.
3. The Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, during their official terms. Restricted as members of Congress and Delegates.

Every postmaster whose commissions for the previous fiscal year, ending 30th June, did not exceed \$200. Restricted to sending letters written by himself on his private business, and receiving written communications addressed to himself on his private business; such letters or written communications not to exceed half an ounce in weight. He cannot, therefore, receive or send free any description of printed matter. He cannot frank or receive free letters written by himself on his private business, or by any other member of his family, or by or to a firm of which he is a member. Neither is he authorized to frank letters containing money or other things, nor letters written by himself on the business of others, whether they be letters of subscription to editors or publishers, or letters of description. The penalty for a violation of this law is \$300.

The privilege of the following officers is restricted to sending and receiving free official communications only, viz:

1. The Heads of the several Executive Departments of the General Government, and of each of the bureaux and chief clerks of said Departments, including the Department of the Interior and Assistant Superintendent of the Coast Survey.
2. The Governors of States to the Governors of other States—restricted to laws and reports, bonds or commissions, and such documents as the Legislature thereof may direct to be sent to the Executive of other States.
3. All postmasters, when their commissions exceed \$200 per annum—restricted to letters and packets relating exclusively to the business of their offices or the Post Office Department.

The personal privilege of franking travels with the person possessing it, and can be exercised in but one place at a time.

No postmaster or privileged person can leave his frank behind him upon envelopes to cover his correspondence in his absence.

If any letter to or from a privileged person, he puts it or restores it at a post office of greater weight than such person has a right by law to frank, the postmaster will charge the excess with letter postage.

Properly franked mail matter, or mail matter addressed to a person enjoying the franking privilege, is entitled to be carried free of postage when forwarded to the person elsewhere, as well as in its transportation simply to the office to which originally addressed.

ACCOUNTS AND RETURNS OF POSTMASTERS.

We have no room for full instructions under this head. Before rendering their accounts, Postmasters should examine carefully the directions in Chapters 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

COLLECTION OF DEBTS.

The collection of debts due to the Post Office Department, whether by postmasters, contractors, or other persons, is assigned to the Auditor for the Post Office Department, from whom postmasters and contractors receive their instructions on the subject.

PAYING OVER MONEY.

For the purpose of paying over the funds of the Department, all the post offices, except special offices, are classified either as deposit offices, draft offices, or collection offices.

Deposit offices are such as are ordered to place quarterly, or oftener, their funds in deposit in some depository.

Draft offices are those which are ordered to retain their funds in hand to meet drafts drawn by the Postmaster General, and countersigned by the Auditor of the Post Office Department.

Collection offices are those which are required to pay the proceeds of sales of stamps, or of the contractor named in their special instructions, upon the production by him, from time to time, of the proper orders and receipts sent to him by the Department. In these quarterly payments must be included all money received for postage stamps and stamped envelopes sold.

A failure either to deposit according to instructions, or to pay a draft when presented, or to pay over to a contractor, upon the production of the proper collection orders and receipts, will be followed by the removal of the delinquent postmaster from office, unless satisfactorily explained to the Postmaster General.

Want of funds can never be an excuse for failing to pay, or to deposit, as the postmaster is required to keep cash in his hands. In like manner he is prohibited from using, loaning, investing, depositing in bank, or exchanging money received for postages, on pain of criminal prosecution.

A postmaster cannot refuse to pay a draft or collection order because the contractor is indebted to him, nor because there is an unsettled private account between them, nor upon any other pretext; but such

refusal is made, by the law, *prima facie* evidence of embezzlement, subjecting him to punishment.

Every postmaster under orders to place his funds in a depository, will take duplicate certificates of cash deposited, issued by the proper officer, one of which should be transmitted to the Third Assistant Postmaster General by the first mail thereafter, as the postmaster will not be entitled to a credit until the receipt of the certificate at the Department.

The deposit should include the whole amount due, whether for postage at the office, for postage stamps and stamped envelopes, or for collections or deposits made with the postmaster on account of the Department or otherwise.

If authorized to pay a mail messenger, such payment is to be deducted from the amount deposited, and the fact reported.

COMMISSIONS OF POSTMASTERS.

Postmasters are entitled, by law, since July 1, 1874, to the following commissions on the amount of postage received by them each quarter of the year, and in the proportion for any fractional part of a quarter; but no postmaster can receive a larger compensation from commissions than \$500 per annum, or more than \$100, fifty per cent, on a sum over that 100, and not exceeding \$100, fifty per cent, on a sum over and above the first \$400, and not exceeding \$4,400, forty per cent, on all sums over \$4,400, fifteen per cent, consequently these rates of commission are—

60 per cent on the first \$100
50 " next 300
40 " next 4,000
15 " on all over 2,400

The rate of commissions upon letter postages prepaid by stamps canceled at the mailing office is the same as if the whole letter postage were collected in advance, and the stamps canceled at the mailing office. Letter postages on those prepaid by stamps sent will be included in the general amount the same as though the whole letter postage were collected in advance, and the stamps canceled at the mailing office.

The rate of commission on newspaper postages actually collected, is fifty per cent, in all cases, whether the amount be large or small.

On letters received at the mailing office, a commission of 12 1/2 per cent is allowed.

On the postage of letters received at a frontier office, upon the mail to Canada, a commission of 33 per cent, and on those received from Canada for distribution, a commission of 7 per cent is allowed. The amounts should be made up of postages received from and sent to Canada offices, and not United States offices.

No allowance is made to postmasters for delivering free letters or newspapers, or printed matter franked by a member of Congress.

Ten cents is allowed for each monthly register of the mails, and for each copy of the mails, when required by and returned to the Department.

At offices where the mail is, by contract, to arrive regularly between the hours of 9 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock in the morning, 75 cents per cent is allowed on the first \$100 of letter postage. Provided, such postmaster transmits, with his quarterly return, his certificate in due form to that effect.

The postmaster who collects the postage on newspapers, periodicals, magazines, &c., quarterly or yearly in advance, is entitled to the commissions on the same, although he may go out of office immediately thereafter, and the paper or periodical be delivered by his successor. He should, however, leave in the office a record of all such payments. If he fails to leave such record, he will not be entitled to such commissions, and the subscribers are liable to lose the benefit of such prepayment.

BIDDING FOR MAIL CONTRACTS, ETC.

In bidding for mail contracts, bidders should first examine carefully the instructions accompanying the advertisement. Formerly a contract was preferred to a "star bid," although the former might be the highest, if the route was deemed to require coach conveyance. Now, under a late decision, the reverse is the case, and a coach or horse bid is not considered legal.

The words "with due celerity, certainty, and security," inserted to indicate the mode of conveyance, will constitute a "star bid." Routes are let by contract for the term of one year, and are divided into sections for that purpose. The Contract Office, on application, furnishes blanks for bids free of expense.

The authority to establish post routes is not vested in the Postmaster-General, nor can he extend or alter the routes already established. He can only place mail service on such routes as have been declared post routes by act of Congress. All railroads, plank roads, canals, navigable rivers, and other water, are, however, post-roads on an established route to the court-house of any county which may be otherwise without a mail.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULES.

If a change of a schedule is desired, application should be made to the Contract Office, supported by the postmasters at the ends of the route. The contract running-time cannot be increased.

ATTENTION TO THE MANNER OF CARRYING THE MAILS.

Every postmaster will consider himself the agent of the Department in regard to its affairs in his immediate vicinity, so far as to carefully observe, and promptly report to it, every thing tending to affect its interests, efficiency, and utility.

It is especially expected that he will keep a vigilant eye upon the manner in which the mail is carried to and from his office. This is among the most important of his duties.

He will report promptly to the Inspection Office all irregularities of mail-carriers, in charge of the mail, and causes, when known.

Whenever the mail is carried by any other person than the contractor or his authorized agent or carrier, the fact is to be noted on the register.

Should any mail fail to arrive at the end of its route, or at any intermediate post office, where the time of arrival is fixed within the time specified in the contract or schedule, it will be expected of every contractor immediately, by himself or agent, to send a report to the Inspection Office, setting forth, particularly, the cause of the failure; and if, after waiting a reasonable time, no specific and satisfactory cause be received, the Chief Clerk is directed to present the case as reported to the Postmaster-General for his consideration.

Any case where the mail-carrier is not sworn should be immediately reported.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES.

These stamps and envelopes are furnished only to postmasters for sale. Postmasters who fail to supply themselves from the Department must purchase temporary supplies from the nearest offices for cash.

Postmasters who purchase stamps or stamped envelopes from other postmasters, under the preceding regulation, are not required to render to the Department any account of such purchases and sales.

The envelopes are to be sold post-paid to postmasters and all other persons, at the prices stated in the receipt which is sent with them to each office.

A letter bearing a stamp out or separated from a stamped envelope, cannot be sent through the mail as a prepaid letter. Stamps so cut or separated from stamped envelopes lose their legal value, and the use of such stamp, as well as the reuse of an ordinary postage stamp, will subject the offender to a fine of \$50.

The cancelling of a stamp has been omitted on the mailing of the letter, packet or parcel, or if the cancellation be incomplete, the postmaster at the office of delivery will officially cancel it, and forthwith report to the delinquent postmaster the amount of the cancellation, and the price stated in the receipt which is sent with them to each office.

Postage stamps and stamped envelopes should not be returned to the Department by a postmaster without special authority, and in such cases it is his duty to provide for their cancellation by a delinquent without. His own oath in this case is not sufficient, and will not entitle him to credit, in case the package should be lost. (See section 404 of the Regulations of 1859.)

BLANKS, WRAPPING-PAPER, TWINE, AND MATING STAMPS.

Post blanks will be furnished to postmasters, on their written requisitions, from the following agencies: Postmasters in the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida will apply to the "First Assistant Postmaster-General, Washington, D. C."

Postmasters in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California, Oregon, and Washington, will apply to the "Chief Clerk, Washington, D. C."

Postmasters in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas, will apply to the "Bank Agent at Cincinnati, Ohio."

When the postages collected at an office amount to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and his office will be printed on the post-bills. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$12.50 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping-paper, sealing-wax, and twine, at the above agencies.

Applications for blank registers of arrival and departure of the mails must be made direct to the "Inspection Office." For general post office blanks, and for special instructions to the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

All postmasters whose compensation is less than \$12.50 per quarter, can purchase a reasonable quantity of wrapping-paper, sealing-wax and twine: provided, the net proceeds of the office exceed twenty dollars per year.

Post offices, the gross receipts of which are over \$1,000 per annum, will be furnished with circulars of exchange in summer, Cape Vincent, N. Y., less than \$1,000 and over \$500, with stamps of class No. 3; less than \$500 and over \$100, with stamps of class No. 3; and exchange post offices with stamps of class No. 1. Applications for these stamps should be made to the Chief Clerk of the Department.

Postmasters at all offices whose gross receipts of which are less than \$100 per annum, if they use rating stamps, must obtain the same at their own expense. Letter balances, upon the like application, are furnished at all offices which collect in postages \$75 a year.

SAVES FOR POST OFF

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 1863.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.
DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:
Ordered, That the Assistant Postmaster-General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.
November 21st, 1861.
FOREIGN POSTAGE TABLE.—The table of postage rates on foreign letters and printed matter, which appears on the 3d page of this paper, is revised and corrected monthly, and may be relied on as officially correct. The table for the current month should always be consulted, as important changes are occasionally required.

What is found in the columns of the MAIL, inserted as it is, only after consultation with the proper officers of the Department—especially on material questions—may safely be relied upon as conformable to the current rules, regulations, and constructions of existing laws.

Official.
The following has been sent us for publication:

Drop-Letters.—The law requires that all drop-letters shall be prepaid by postage-stamps. It being found inexpedient to notify the persons addressed when such letters are held for postage, they must be sent to the Dead Letter Office after remaining on hand one week.

Books.—Postmasters will be careful to mail to the Dead Letter Office all books that cannot be delivered, with the reason endorsed on them.

MISSENT AND FORWARDED LETTERS.—Some Postmasters erroneously take credit for the amount of paid postage on letters which have been mis-sent, and forwarded from their offices. There being no charge against Postmasters in such cases of mis-sending letters, no credit is allowable for forwarding. The Postmaster should only credit himself with the amount of unpaid postage on mis-sent and forwarded letters.

JOHN A. KASSON, First Assistant P. M. G.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.—With a view to give all our readers the benefit of information and explanations (furnished from time to time, in answer to inquiries, and in order to lessen as far as possible the correspondence of the Department, we shall incorporate all such answers in our Postal Directory inserted in each number, under the head of "Miscellaneous." Before calling upon us for information on any point, postmasters will therefore do well to consult such items as have already been called forth by special applications, and arranged under the above head, after having been once inserted editorially.

In consulting our standing "Postal Directory," in case the desired information does not appear under its proper head in the particular number examined, reference should be had to the previous number, as, for convenience, we may have to omit portions of the "Directory" occasionally.

Changes.
Attention is called to changes in our Foreign Postage Tables, Post Office Laws, Instructions, &c., rendered necessary from time to time, in consequence of alterations in foreign treaties, new legislation, &c.
Such changes will be specially noted editorially, in each future issue.

It will be seen that in the list of departments of foreign steamers for February, the names of the mail steamers are omitted. This is owing to the liability of the substitution of other vessels for those originally arranged for, as must have appeared to our readers, with reference to former monthly announcements. The dates of departure, however, are mainly important.

We commence in another column, a full list of postmasters appointed by the President since the 4th of March, 1861. In the absence of any other official publication, this list will no doubt be found convenient for reference. The dates of the commissions being given, it will also serve to show when the term of four years will expire, in each case.

TRANSIENT NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.—A Brooklyn subscriber writes us that "the rates of postage on transient newspapers, pamphlets, &c., for points within the United States, and to the British Provinces," are not clearly set down" in the MAIL. He has probably overlooked the paragraph headed "Circulars," in the column of "Domestic Postages,"—and also the first paragraph under the caption of "Foreign Miscellany," on the fourth page.

The complaints and inquiries of a postmaster in Iowa, respecting the many abuses of the franking privilege, are omitted for the present, as the timely action of Congress, which will, we trust, result in cutting up the "privilege," root and branch, will effectually cure the annoying evils complained of.

Postal Legislation.
Quite a number of bills, having for their object changes and reforms in the Post Office Department, are now under consideration in Congress. The most important of these, contemplating the abolition of the franking privilege, to take effect July 1st, has been passed by the House, and is now awaiting action in the Senate. In common with nine-tenths of our fellow-citizens, we are gratified to see a blow struck at this wretched system which has so long hampered the operations of the postal service, and hope to be able to announce in our next number that the Department is no longer obliged, gratuitously, to "grunt and sweat under a weary load" of unredemptive "pub. doc." hum-combe speeches, and M. C.'s winking.

We presume that before our next issue definite action will be taken in regard to all the postal measures now before Congress; and in the mean time we give below copies of the only two Post Office laws which, up to this time, have passed both Houses, and received the approval of the Executive. These laws take effect immediately:—

AN ACT to promote the efficiency of the Dead Letter Office.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Postmaster General be authorized to return all dead letters, except those containing circulars and other worthless matter, to their writers, whenever their names can be ascertained. All valuable letters to be charged treble, and all others double, the ordinary rate of postage, to be collected from the writers.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That, to enable this to be done, the Postmaster General is authorized to employ not exceeding twenty-five additional clerks, not exceeding an average of eight hundred dollars per year; provided, That he is satisfied that the receipts for dead letter postage will amount to a sum sufficient to pay the aggregate compensation. And he shall report to the next session of Congress the additional income from this source, with its cost and statistical results.

Approved, January 21, 1862.

AN ACT in relation to the letters of sailors and marines in the service of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of the act of July twenty-second, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, authorizing soldiers to send letters through the mails of the United States without prepayment of postage, is hereby extended to the sailors and marines in the actual service of the United States, under such regulations as the Post Office Department shall provide, the postage thereon to be paid by the recipients.

Approved, January 21, 1862.

The Press and Mr. Colfax.
Some of the newspaper editors and correspondents, in their comments recently upon the various postal measures before Congress, have been far from just in their allusions to the Hon. Mr. COLFAX, Chairman of the House Post Office Committee. In fact, we have been surprised at the seeming recklessness with which the whole post office system has been denounced, and its entire abolition proposed, by presses, the proprietors of which could never have reached their present elevated, influential, and prosperous position, but for the ample postal facilities secured to them by the very men and the same system which they so unreasonably denounce.

It is one thing to fairly discuss proposed changes and suggest improvements, and quite another to apply the terms "fool," "crazy," "miserable monopoly," etc., to the men devoted to a service honestly administered for the public good. The worst wish we have for those who clamor for the withdrawal of the mails from the custody and control of the Government, is that they could for a single month experience the confusion and chaos which would follow the "private enterprise" experiment which they would substitute in lieu of the present establishment.

Abolish post offices and the office of postmaster, and we would like to see our friends of the Evening Post, who, we believe, are among the advocates of annihilation, getting their exchanges, supplying their distant country subscribers, and running and telegraphing to and fro, to ascertain to which of the thousand and one private letter express companies which would spring up, their missing correspondence had been entrusted.

To the charge that Mr. COLFAX was responsible for the proposed stamp tax on newspapers, that gentleman responds in a brief and comprehensive card published in the Washington Star, as follows:—

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 29, 1862.
To the Editor of the Star:
So far from Mr. Colfax proposing to legislate with reference to the penny press of the country, by the imposition of a stamp tax, or a tax on circulation, as you state, I am and have been inflexibly opposed to it. Understanding that the Ways and Means Committee intended to propose such a tax, so as to raise about two millions from the newspaper press, I endeavored to anticipate and oppose it by raising nearly that same amount in another way—viz, by requiring all papers sent in mail trains, on routes sustained by the Government at heavy cost for carrying the mails, to pay postage to the Department, whether inside or outside of the mail bags. This, if successful, would have insured the defeat of the other. The Press, however, condemned it severely, and caused its rejection. But I shall, nevertheless, oppose the other plan, believing it unwise and unjust.

Respectfully,
HUYLER COLFAX.

NABING AN OUTSIDER.—Special Agent Ordway, a few days since, arrested a man by the name of H. A. Smith, at Barnstable, Mass., for abstracting from a letter mailed at Boston the sum of \$53. Smith, it appears, was an "outsider,"—that is, in no way connected with the mail service. He boarded in the same house with the party to whom the letter belonged. The letter arrived in the absence of the owner, when Smith emptied it of its valuable contents, revealing the envelope so neatly as at first to lead brother Ordway to think it had not been disturbed since the first sealing. But the thief was a little bold in spending the stolen money, which, together with other discoveries made by the Agent, led to Smith's arrest. He probably thought it was an Ord-way of doing business.

U. S. Commissioner Tuttle held the accused to bail in the sum of \$1,000.

An Example.
An instance of official exactness and strict fidelity has recently come to our knowledge, which, owing to the peculiar circumstances attending it, we are disposed to chronicle as a marked and valuable example, especially for all government officials.

WILLIAM J. HAMERSLEY, Esq., was postmaster at Hartford, Conn., for the term of about seven years, from which position he retired on the appointment of the present incumbent, E. S. CLEVELAND, Esq. In the settlement of his accounts with the Department, amounting in the aggregate to about \$200,000, a balance of \$3,200 was found to be due the Department, which Mr. HAMERSLEY promptly paid over to his successor, on the Auditor's draft. A full statement was therefore rendered by the Auditor, and the entire account regularly audited and balanced, after crediting the above payment of \$3,250,—thus acknowledging that the Department had no further claim on Mr. H.

But by the postmaster's own account of monies received, paid drafts, and other disbursements, and the specie on hand, he was satisfied that the Auditor's office had not, in this instance, exhibited its usual accuracy, and a minute and careful revision of all the items of the accounts shew that the further amount of about \$4,000 was still due the Government. This discovery was reported to the Department, and the items cited which went to make up the above second balance. The postmaster's statement was found substantially correct, and another draft for nearly \$4,000 was drawn on him, and paid over in gold to the new postmaster, and the account finally closed.

Mr. HAMERSLEY was an excellent postmaster, and was always regarded by the Department as one of its most efficient and rigidly correct officers; therefore such honorable conduct on his part was by no means unexpected or surprising. We nevertheless deemed the above facts worthy of publication, and they will, no doubt, be thought by our readers quite refreshing at the present time, when so many appear to be not over-scrupulous in their dealings with the Government.

SMALL BUSINESS.—A postmaster in Western New York has been indicted by the U. S. Grand Jury for converting the public funds received for postage on Canada letters, to his own use. It appears that the citizens doing business at that post office, having considerable Canadian correspondence, have been in the habit of prepaying their letters by money instead of postage stamps. These letters would be sent forward unpaid, the money finding its way into the pocket of the postmaster. Some of the shrewdest of the victims to this dishonest practice, discovering the game, arranged with parties in Canada to return them the envelopes of letters which had been deposited prepaid in money, as decoys, in the hands of this petty robber. Sne enough, they all came back bearing no sign of pre-payment.

What is the most singular feature of this case, is the fact that the delinquent official is said to be well off, and entirely without the ordinary excuse of pecuniary pressure.

MAILS DIRECT, AND FOR DISTRIBUTION.—Many postmasters constantly violate the rules for making up letter packages for the mails. At New York and other distributing offices, such packages are constantly received, including letters both for delivery and for distribution, all under the same wrapper and post-bills. This is all wrong. They should be made up separately, marked on the outside with the name of the city and the State, simply, when for delivery, and with the addition of the initials D. P. O., when containing letters to be remailed to other offices.

POST-MARKING PRINTED MATTER.—The stoung regulations of the Department require that not only all letters, but transient newspapers, shall bear the post mark of the mailing office, and that the impression shall be "distinct and legible." It appears that the violation of this requirement has been the source of considerable embarrassment to our neighbors of the Independent, who have formally complained to the Department on the subject. Among other cases of this kind, it appears that the postmaster at "Academy" returned them a refused copy of their paper; but not knowing what "Academy" was so wanting in good taste and sound judgment as to stop the Independent, especially now that Mr. Beecher has assumed the reins editorial, the publisher was left in a quandary, and appealed to head quarters for information. In response, Mr. KASSON sends him the following:—

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
APPOINTMENT OFFICE, Jan. 23, 1862.
SIR,—Yours of 24th inst. is received, and contents noted. R. Haight is P. M. at Academy, Ontario Co., New York.

Your suggestion in regard to post-marking all communications, &c., is well timed. The neglect of postmasters to comply with the rules of the Department on this subject, causes much difficulty in this office, as well as among publishers and others.
In all appointments of postmasters, the following, among other instructions, are given them:—
"Be careful in mailing letters and transient newspapers, to post-mark each one, in all cases, with the name of your office and State; and in all communications to the Department, to embrace the date, the name of your post office, county, (or district), and State."
In stamping letters, great care should be observed to render the impression distinct and legible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN A. KASSON, First Assistant P. M. G.
Rev. J. Leavitt, Independent Office,
New York.

JUDICIAL BLINDNESS.—One of the Judges of the U. S. Court, alluding recently to the carelessness of correspondents in addressing their letters to go by mail, mentioned that a glance at a letter he was about committing to the post office lately, revealed the mortifying fact that he had plainly addressed it to himself!

Female Postmasters.
Through the politeness of the clerks in the Bond-Room of the Post Office Department, we have been furnished with a complete list of all the female postmasters in the United States, with the date of the commission of each—and a pretty formidable list it is, numbering at the present time four hundred and eleven. Only five of these are what are known as Presidential appointments, the net income of the office amounting to \$1,000 and upwards. They are as follows:

Mrs. Ann Gentry, Columbia, Boone county, Missouri: commissioned Feb. 20, 1838.
Maria G. Hornbeck, Allentown, Lehigh county, Penn.: commissioned Feb. 26, 1849.
Mrs. Ann L. Rutherauff, Lebanon, Lebanon county, Penn.: commissioned Aug. 5, 1850.
Mrs. Mary Beard, West Point, Orange county, N. Y.: commissioned March 28, 1853.
Mrs. Margaret Sylliman, Pottsville, Schuylkill county, Penn.: commissioned April 6, 1861.

It thus appears that Mrs. Gentry is officially the oldest postmaster now in the service, appointed directly by the President.

The fact may be entitled to some significance, that hachelor Buchanan, as will be seen by the dates, is not to be credited with one of the above appointments; while our present worthy Chief Magistrate exhibited that respect and gallantry towards the gentler sex, for which he has always been so distinguished, by inviting Mrs. Sylliman into his governmental family, among the very earliest of his official acts, and when he had been an occupant of the White House but about four weeks.

Of the 406 remaining, Mrs. or Miss Postmasters, as the case may be, who received their appointment from the Postmaster-General, Jennet McNair, at Cowper Hill, N. C., holds the oldest commission, the record showing that she took the office Dec. 4, 1828. We trust that Jeff Davis has extended his "let-alone" principle to Jennet, and that she will be found at her post a staunch and loyal lover of the Union, when a free interchange of Northern and Southern mail-bags is again resumed.

The most ancient and honorable dame now managing a post office in the loyal States, is Regina Worman, at Epy, Columbia county, Penn., who was born (officially) Jan. 10, 1831, and who still lives.

Jane S. Vanderslice has had charge of the office at West Hanover, Dauphin county, Penn., since Nov. 11, 1841, over twenty years; and Celestine Kaltenback, at Potosi, Wis., Mary C. Blue, at Hanging Rock, Va., and Theresa C. Myers, at Hanover, Pa., have held on for about twenty years, and, we believe, do not propose to "die or resign," at any rate until the Union is restored.

We regret that we have not room for this interesting catalogue of crinoline officials, entire.

The 411 appointments are divided among the States as follows:—

Pennsylvania	98	Kentucky	7
Virginia	48	Mississippi	6
Ohio	34	New Hampshire	6
New York	33	Vermont	5
Maryland	20	Florida	4
North Carolina	17	Tennessee	4
Illinois	15	Connecticut	3
Indiana	14	Delaware	3
Iowa	10	Rhode Island	3
Missouri	10	Alabama	2
Maine	9	Georgia	2
Massachusetts	9	Louisiana	2
New Jersey	9	Nebraska Territory	2
Michigan	8	Texas	2
Minnesota	8	Arkansas	1
South Carolina	8	Kansas	1
Wisconsin	8		
Total			411

BRITISH BLENDING.—The writer of one of the stories in the Christmas number of Charles Dickens' "All the Year Round," in relating the adventures of an Englishman who traveled the overland route from California to intercept a swindler who was on his way to New York, via Panama, makes his hero encounter one of the mail riders, who gives him the remarkable geographical intelligence that he was "raised in *Utica*, down in old Kentucky;" and on the hero's arrival in New York, he learns from the evening paper the arrival that day from California of "the Postmaster-General." What a growl from the heavy thunder of the *Times*, and what a complacent sniff of disdain from the supercilious snobs of the *Saturday Review*, we should have on the subject of "Yankee ignorance," and the "degrading influence of republican government," if an American story-writer were to speak of Manchester as a town in Wales, or locate Liverpool in Yorkshire, or chronicle the arrival of Lord Palmerston from Australia! And yet none of these errors would have been a whit worse than those we have noticed above as appearing in a magazine under the control of one of the first of English novelists.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.—No law was ever half so boldly and extensively violated and abused as has been that of allowing certain written and printed mail matter to pass free through the mails. A universal cry of "good riddance" goes up from every class, and every section of the country, as the news of its prohibitive repeal travels onward.

The *Nashua* (N. H.) *Telegraph* kicks the old disgusting carcass after this fashion:—
The new law simply declares that after the first of July next, "the franking privilege shall be and is hereby abolished." The leak which this little law—if it shall become a law—will stop in the Treasury, directly and indirectly, is incalculable. Congress will stop publishing its dry documents, which are hardly read by hundreds, by the tens of thousands, if the members cannot tickle their friends by sending them to them free of charge. To nine-tenths of them they are worthless, any way. The cost of transportation will thus be greatly diminished. And this is not all. There is no privilege so universally and so extensively abused as this same franking privilege. The amount of private correspondence of parties who have not the privilege, which is covered by the frank of those who have, would astonish people who have no means of knowing its extent, and all just as palpably in violation of law as the stealing of a horse!

POSTAL DIRECTORY.

These columns have been carefully condensed from the old and new Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department, under the guidance and direction of the chief officers, past and present, of the Department, to whose careful revision they have been submitted since they were put in type. They will be kept as standing matter, and altered from time to time, as the action of Congress and the direction of the Postmaster-General and his Assistants, or further explanations, may render necessary. Such additions will be conspicuously noted as they occur.

Should further or more detailed information on any point, whether embraced or omitted in this synopsis, be required, it will be cheerfully supplied on application, in person or by letter, to the editor of the *Mail*.

HOW COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

TO THE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—Such as relate to the establishment and discontinuance or changes of sites, and names of post offices, appointment and removal of postmasters, and route and local agents; also, such as relate to foreign mails and applications for balances or postal notes, marking and mixing stamps, &c. In applying for appointments, the applicant himself should address the Department, in addition to the recommendations.

TO THE SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—Such as relate to the putting in operation, change or discontinuance of mail routes, the designation of mail messengers, the distribution and dispatch of the mails, &c.

TO THE THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—Should be sent all quarterly returns of postage, as well as the weekly and monthly returns of the depositories of the Department, and applications and receipts for postage stamps, stamped envelopes, and dead letters; also, duplicate certificates for deposits made by postmasters in the treasury or deposit offices, &c.; likewise all dead letters, in respect to which see Pamphlet of Regulations, issued May 1, 1861, for full and important instructions.

TO THE CHIEF CLERK, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—Should be sent all communications respecting lost money letters, mail depositions, or other violations of law, or mail bags, locks and keys; also, all registers of the arrivals and departures of the mails, certificates of the service of route agents, reports of mail failures, applications for blank registers, all complaints against contractors, &c.

TO THE AUDITOR POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—Should be sent all accounts, (except postmasters' quarterly returns,) letters relating to accounts either of postmasters or contractors, and all acknowledgments of drafts issued in payment of balances, and also, the receipts of postmasters for public property turned over to them by their predecessors, letters reporting non-payment of drafts issued by the Auditor, and returns of District Attorneys and Marshals, of their proceedings in post office cases.

When, however, an occasion arises for a special letter or report to the Department, it should, if relating to confidential matters, or the general interest of the Department, be addressed directly to the *Postmaster-General*.

LETTERS MUST BEAR THE POST-MARK, and post-bills the date of the day on which the mail containing them is actually sent off.

Postage stamps must be canceled by an instrument made for that purpose, and used with black printer's ink, or effectually with any other ink. The date must not be used as a cancelling stamp.

It is imperative on postmasters to stamp their letters plainly.

DELIVERY OF LETTERS.

The persons entitled to letters conveyed by mail are those whose names are in the address.

The delivery should be either to the person addressed or according to his order. In special cases, orders are sometimes made by the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

Letters addressed to a firm may be delivered to any member of a firm, and if addressed to several persons, they may be handed to any one of them. Packages and packages addressed to individuals, persons or firms, or to no particular person or firm, but being deliverable according to the Regulations, are to be returned to the Dead Letter Office. In contested cases of this kind, it is well to consult the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

If a letter appears to be of value, it will be safest to require a written order for its delivery to the person calling, if he be not the person addressed. If there be two or more persons of the same name, and a letter intended for one of them, the postmaster will reveal the letter in the presence of the person who opened it, and request him to write upon it the words, "Opened by me through mistake," and sign his name; he will then replace the letter in the office.

Prepayment of certain foreign letters (see table of foreign postages) is optional. Domestic letters must be prepaid by stamps in all cases. If they have on them an adequate prepaid stamp, they are to be delivered as paid, though they be entered in the bill as unpaid. In such case, the postmaster will correct the post-bill, require correction of the mailing postmaster, and inform the auditor. If short paid, the deficient postage must be collected at once.

When a letter is delivered, and the postage paid thereon, the postage should not be returned after the letter has been opened, except when opened through mistake by the writer, a postmaster, or other person. Postmasters must not deliver letters from their respective offices which may be addressed to and deliverable from other offices, except in the case of discontinued offices.

To prevent fraud, the postmaster will be careful not to return any letter put into his office for the mail except to the writer, or on his order, and a record of the transaction must be preserved.

Postmasters are required by law and the instructions of the Department, to receive their respective offices open during the usual business hours of the place; and it is their duty always to make proper search when a letter is applied for, and generally to manifest an accommodating disposition towards the public.

SHIP AND STEAMBOAT LETTERS.

It is the duty of masters of steamboats to deliver into the post offices, or to a local agent of the Department, at the places at which they arrive, letters (except such as relate to the cargo of the vessel) received by them, or by any person employed on their boats, at any point on the route. Penalty for omitting to do this, \$30.

When not under contract with the Department, the master or manager of the ship or steamboat (if not foreign) is entitled to receive from the postmaster two cents a letter, (except on Lake Erie, where it is one cent,) for which he must receipt, and, if under contract, he may receive one cent, way. Masters of foreign vessels must deliver the letters brought by them, but cannot be paid.

Letters brought by steamboat or ship, should be marked "steamboat," or "ship," as the case may be, at the time of receiving them.

All letters placed on a mail steamboat, on which the mails are in charge of a route agent, should go into the hands of such agent, and on these letters the master of the vessel is not entitled to receive any compensation. None but prepaid letters should be received on such steamboat, and these should be duly mailed. But should any chance to be unpaid, they should be deposited by the route agent in the post office at or nearest the point at which they are received, where the postmaster will treat them in all respects as other unpaid letters.

Persons desirous to send their letters by steamboats can most readily accomplish their object by enclosing such letters in the stamped envelopes issued by the Department, inasmuch as letters so enclosed may be conveyed out of the mail without a violation of law, and need not be delivered to the postmaster on the arrival of the vessel.

ADVERTISING LETTERS.

Section 191 (chap. xiii) of the Regulations requires post offices to advertise letters as follows: 1. Once in six weeks when the gross receipts do not exceed \$500 per quarter. 2. Once a month when the receipts are over \$500, and not over \$1,000 per quarter.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

3. Twice a month when the receipts are over \$1,000, and not over \$7,500 per quarter.
4. Once a week when the receipts exceed \$7,500 per quarter.

Refused unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of each advertisement, it follows that offices of the first class above named must make such returns every six weeks;

Those of the second class, every month;
Those of the third class, every two months;
Those of the fourth class, every three months.

Refused letters are not to be advertised, nor those which the postmaster expects will be immediately taken from the office.

Drop and box letters, circulars, free packets containing printed documents, speeches or other printed matter, are not to be advertised.

When authority for the publication of lists of foreign letters in a newspaper printed in a foreign language is deemed advisable, the postmaster must make a special application for the necessary order to publish in such paper.

When daily, semi-weekly, tri-weekly, or weekly papers are issued from the same office, the proprietor must not be allowed to segregate the circulars, such papers, but the single circulation of each issue of the particular paper for which he claims the publication.

Whether the paper is issued daily, tri-weekly, semi-weekly, or weekly, must be shown, and the advertisement inserted in the particular paper which has the largest circulation.

One cent only is allowed for advertising each letter, and the printer's receipt must state the number of letters, and the amount paid for advertising.

The whole amount paid for advertising must be charged on No. 10 of the account current.
The cost of advertising must be marked upon each letter advertised, and be collected with the postage.

DEAD LETTERS.

Letters which have been advertised, and remained unclaimed two months, are to be returned to the Dead Letter Office, excepting letters at seaports intended for persons on board certain designated vessels—excepting arrival letters especially marked to be held a longer period.

Paid drop letters, not called for, should be held two months.
Postmasters are specially directed to advertise letters according to the standing regulations of the department, under section 181, chap. 13, and to return unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of each advertisement.

Thus, offices of the smallest class will return every six weeks; those of the second class, once a month; those of the third class, twice a month; those of the fourth class, every week.

Letters of the following description are exempted from these instructions, and must be separately returned to the Dead Letter Office from all offices at least as often as once a week, viz:

1. Letters for foreign countries upon which prepayment is compulsory, and drop letters.
2. Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes.
3. Unpaid letters for foreign countries on which prepayment is required by the regulations.
4. Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.
5. Letters misdirected (or directed to places where there are no post offices).
6. Refused letters, and such as cannot be delivered, (as when the parties addressed are known to be deceased or moved).

Sections 185, 187, 188, 189, 300, and 312 of the standing Regulations are not hereafter to be regarded.
Section 134 is modified so as to limit the one-cent rate chargeable per ounce on books to distances under fifteen hundred miles, (instead of three thousand).

Writers of letters can have them returned, if recalled for within the given period, by indicating such request with their address on the letters.
Postage is chargeable on all letters returned from the Dead Letter Office.

When a letter is refused, the word "refused" should be so on each plainly written upon it, and the letter put with those to be returned at the end of the month.
If, previous to its return, the seal of a dead letter be broken by accident, or by having been delivered to the wrong person, the fact and circumstances must be noted upon it.

Every dead letter must bear on the sealed side the stamp or post-mark of the post office by which it was returned, and the date of its return to the Department.

Dead "Registered Letters" must be made up in a separate package, with a separate bill, giving the address and register number of each letter. This package is to be carefully tied up and sealed, and addressed to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, but mailed to the Postmaster at Washington City, with return bill, in the same manner as other registered letters.

Domestic letters (drop letters excepted) held for postage, instead of being sent to the Department, are hereafter to be retained, and notice sent to the parties addressed. The answer to such notice must be prepaid, and a postage stamp of the proper amount enclosed, with the money to prepare the "held letters."
This class of letters must not be written for, must not go in the office more than one month from the time of notification, but must be sent to the Dead Letter Office. The period may be shortened at discretion, where notices are sent short distances, and answers might be expected in a few days.

All letters held for postage should be post-marked on the day of their receipt, and boxed according to date.

CRIMINALS.—Postmasters will not return unsealed circulars to the Dead Letter Office, but dispose of them the same as dead newspapers.

LOST LETTERS AND MAIL DEPRECIATIONS.
Money and other valuable things sent in the mail, whether registered or not, are at the risk of the owner. But, if lost, the Department, on being duly advised of the circumstances, will make every effort in its power to discover the cause thereof, and restore the same if found.

Cases of mail robbery should be at once reported to the Chief Clerk.
If a postmaster has reason to believe that a mail has been robbed or stolen, in the custody of his office, he should at once examine into the evidence of the fact; and if satisfied that such robbery or theft has actually occurred, should take immediate and energetic measures for recovering the mail, and for apprehending and prosecuting the offender.

All necessary expenses that may be incurred in recovering the mail, and in apprehending the robber, will be reimbursed by the Department. After the arrest, all such expenses are chargeable to the Judiciary fund, and should be presented through the U. S. Marshal.

In some cases it may be proper to offer a reward, not to exceed fifty dollars, payable on conviction, for the apprehension of the criminal.

In every case where a criminal is apprehended, the Attorney of the United States for the district in which the offense was committed, should be promptly informed of the facts, and his advice obtained.

WAY LETTERS.

Way letters are such letters as a mail-carrier receives on his way between two post offices. The carrier will deliver them to the first post office at which he arrives. The postmaster will pay the carrier one cent a letter, if demanded, and rate them with postage, writing against the rate the word "way." This cent, when paid, must be added to the ordinary postage on the letter.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The following officers and persons enjoy the right as a personal privilege, subject in the case of some of them to the several restrictions stated and annexed:

1. The President and Vice-President of the United States; the individuals who at former periods have filled the office of President or Vice-President; Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Polk, widows of former Presidents. Restricted in the case of the Vice-President, or ex-Vice-President, to letters and packets not weighing over two ounces, and to public documents.

2. Members of Congress and Delegates from Territories, commencing with their term of office, (that is, from 4th of March, or from time of receiving certificate of election to fill vacancy occurring after 4th March,) and ending the first Monday of December after the expiration of their term. Restricted to letters and packets not exceeding two ounces in weight, and public documents. Public documents are

those printed by the order of either House of Congress, and publications and books procured or purchased by Congress or either House for the use of the members.

3. The Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, during their official terms. Restricted as members of Congress and Delegates.

4. Every postmaster whose commission for the previous fiscal year, ending 30th June, did not exceed \$200. Restricted to sending letters written by himself on his private business, and receiving written communications addressed to himself on his private business; such letters or written communications not to exceed half an ounce in weight.

He cannot receive or send free any description of printed matter. He cannot frank or receive free letters written by or addressed to his wife, or any other member of his family, or by or to a firm of which he is a member. Neither is he authorized to frank letters containing money or other things, nor letters written by himself on the business of others, whether they be ordinary subscriptions to editors or publishers, or other description. The penalty for violation of this law is \$300.

The privilege of the following officers is restricted to sending and receiving free official communications only, viz:

1. The heads of the several Executive Departments of the General Government, and of each of the bureaus and chief clerks of said Departments, including the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Coast Survey.

2. The Governors of States to the Governors of other States—restricted to laws and reports, bound or unbound, records and documents of the State, which the Legislature thereof may direct to be sent to the Executive of other States.

3. All postmasters when their commissions exceed \$200 per annum—restricted to letters and packages relating exclusively to the business of their offices or the Post Office Department.

The personal privilege of franking travels with the person possessing it, may be exercised in but one place at the same time.

No postmaster or privileged person can leave his frank behind him upon envelopes to cover his correspondence in his absence.

If any letter or post from a privileged person, be put into or received at a post office, of greater weight than such person has a right by law to frank, the postmaster will charge the excess with letter postage.

Properly franked mail matter, or mail matter addressed to a person enjoying the franking privilege, is entitled to be carried free in the mail when "forwarded" to the person elsewhere, as well as in its transportation simply to the office to which originally addressed.

COMMISSIONS OF POSTMASTERS.

Postmasters are entitled, by law, since July 1, 1854, to the following commissions on the amount of postage received by them in each quarter of the year, and in the proportion of the amount of postage received in each quarter; but no postmaster can receive a larger compensation from commissions than \$500 per quarter.

On a sum not exceeding \$100, sixty per cent; on a sum over the first 100, and not exceeding \$400, fifty per cent; on a sum over and above the first \$400, and not exceeding \$2,400, forty per cent; on all sums over \$2,400, thirty per cent; consequently these rates of commissions are:

50 per cent. on the first \$100
60 " " next 300
40 " " next 2,000
30 " " all over 2,400

The rate of commissions upon postage postages prepaid by stamps canceled at the mailing office is the same as if the whole letter postages were collected in money; that is, in summing up the amounts on which commissions are collected, the amount of postage on letters postages so prepaid by stamps sent will be included in the general amount the same as though the whole letter postages were collected in money, but they should be entered in the proper line in the account current.

The rate of commission on newspaper postages actually collected, is fifty per cent, in all cases, whether the amount be large or small.

On the postage of letters received for distribution at the General Distribution Office, a commission of 12 1/2 per cent is allowed.

On the postage of letters received at a frontier office and sent to Canada, a commission of 33 per cent is allowed, and on the postage of letters received at a frontier office and sent to the United States, a commission of 7 per cent is allowed. The amounts should be made up of postage received from and sent to Canada offices, and not United States offices.

No allowance is made to postmasters for delivering free letters or newspapers, or printed matter franked by a member of Congress.

Ten cents is allowed for each monthly register of the names and addresses of mail carriers, when required by and returned to the Department.

At offices where the mail is, by contract, to arrive regularly between the hours of 9 o'clock in the evening and 10 o'clock in the morning, a special rate of 50 per cent is allowed on the first \$100 of letter postage. Provided, such postmaster transmits, with his quarterly return, his certificate in due form to that effect.

The postmaster who collects the postage on newspapers, periodicals, magazines, &c., quarterly or yearly in advance, is entitled to the commissions on the same, although he may go out of office immediately thereafter, and the paper or periodical be forwarded by him to the subscribers, and the subscribers are liable to lose the benefit of such prepayment.

BIDDING FOR MAIL CONTRACTS, ETC.
In bidding for mail contracts, bidders should first examine carefully the instructions accompanying the advertisement. Formerly a coach was preferred to a "star bid," although the former might be the highest, if the route was deemed to require coach conveyance. Now, under a late decision, the reverse is the case, and a coach or horse bid is not considered legal.

The words "with due celerity, certainty, and security," inserted to indicate the mode of conveyance, will constitute a "star bid." Routes are let once in four years, the Union being divided into four sections for that purpose. The Contract Office, on application, furnishes blanks for bids free of expense.

The authority to establish post routes is not vested in the Postmaster-General, nor can he extend or lengthen those already established. He can only place mail service on such routes as are authorized by act of Congress. All railroads, plank roads, canals, navigable rivers, and other waters, are, however, post-roads by law; and also the road from the nearest post office on an established route to the court-house of any county which may be otherwise without a mail.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULES.
If a change of a schedule is desired, application should be made to the Contract Office, supported by the postmasters at the ends of the route. The contract running-time cannot be increased.

ATTENTION TO THE MANNER OF CARRYING THE MAIL.
Every postmaster will consider himself the agent of the Department in regard to its affairs in his immediate vicinity, so far as to carefully observe, and promptly report to it, every thing tending to affect its interests, efficiency, and utility.

It is especially expected that he will keep a vigilant eye upon the manner in which the mails are carried to and from his office. This is among the most important of his duties.

He will report promptly to the Inspection Office all irregularities of mail-carriers, in change of the mail, and cases where known.

Whenever the mail is carried by any other person than the contractor or his authorized agent or carrier, the fact is to be noted on the register.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES.

These stamps and envelopes are furnished only to postmasters or to the Department, and fail to supply themselves from the Department must purchase temporary supplies from the nearest offices for cash.

Postmasters who purchase stamps or stamped envelopes from other postmasters, under the preceding regulations, are required to report to the Department any account of such purchases and sales.

The envelopes are to be sold for cash to postmasters and all other persons, at the prices stated in the receipt which is sent with them to each office.

A letter bearing a stamp cut or separated from a stamped envelope, cannot be sent through the mail as a prepaid letter. Stamps so cut or separated from stamped envelopes lose their legal value, and the use of such stamp, as well as the use of an ordinary postage stamp, will subject the offender to a fine of \$50.

If the cancelling of a stamp has been omitted on the mailing of the letter, packet, or parcel, or if the cancellation be incomplete, the postmaster at the office of delivery will effectually cancel it, and forthwith report the delinquent postmaster to the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

Postage stamps and stamped envelopes should not be postmarked or cancelled by a postmaster without special authority, and in such cases it is his duty to prove the act of mailing by a disinterested witness. His own oath to that effect is not sufficient, and will not entitle him to credit, in case the postage should be lost. (See section 401 of the Regulations of 1859.)

BLANKS, WRAPPING-PAPER, TWINE, AND RATING STAMPS.
Post blanks will be furnished to postmasters, on their written requisition, from the following offices: Postmasters in the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida will apply to the "First Assistant Postmaster-General, Washington, D. C."

Postmasters in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California, Oregon, and Washington, will apply to the "Postmaster-General, New York, N. Y."

Postmasters in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Kansas, will apply to the "Postmaster-General, St. Louis, Mo."

When the postages collected at an office amount to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on the post-bills. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$1250 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping-paper, sealing-wax, and twine, at the above agencies.

Applications for blank registers of arrival and departure of the mails must be made direct to the Inspection Office. For general post office blanks, and for special instructions to the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

All postmasters whose compensation is less than \$1250 per quarter, can purchase a reasonable quantity of sealing-wax and twine. Provided, the net proceeds of the office exceed twenty dollars per year.

Post offices, the gross receipts of which are over \$1,000 per annum, will be furnished with circular marking and rating stamps of class No. 1; less than \$1,000 and over \$500, with stamps of class No. 2; less than \$500 and over \$100, with stamps of class No. 3; and exchange post offices with stamps of class No. 4. The Department will not supply stamps to the Appointment Office.

Postmasters at offices the gross receipts of which are less than \$100 per annum, if they use rating stamps, must, at their own expense, pay for the same. Let balances upon the bill application, are furnished to offices which collect in postage 375 a year.

SALES OF POST OFFICES.
Are allowed by the Department only in special cases, and never to any office where there are no surplus commissions. Application to be made to the Appointment Office.

PREPAYMENT OF LETTERS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
In prepaying letters to foreign countries, great care should be taken to pay them according to the route indicated on the letter. [See 343 page of this sheet.]

Where a letter is sent to a foreign country, an ounce, for Great Britain, the German States, etc. (via Prussia including mail), Belgium, Holland, (via open mail) every fraction of an ounce, after the first ounce, is charged at the rate of 1 cent per ounce, and is denoted by a great many postmarks and correspondents, as evinced by the large number of letters received at the New York and Boston post offices, insufficiently paid, averaging for every steamer from Europe, 100,000 letters, of which 50,000 are insufficiently paid, and are found to be short but one rate, the senders having paid them by the half, instead of the full ounce. This, a letter for Great Britain, weighing one ounce, and directed to London, is charged at five ounces, or ten rates; but if \$2.16 (nine rates only) are paid, owing to an omission to count the fraction as a full ounce, it then goes unpaid, and the \$2.16 is lost to the writer of the letter. These letters are great as well as wholly unpaid, and the amount paid, lost to the sender.

Letters to foreign countries, where prepayment of postage is compulsory, are insufficiently paid, are returned to the Postmaster-General, and are sent to Washington with the quarterly returns, as is often the case.

Upon the receipt of a registered letter for delivery, it should be entered upon the account of registered letters, and the receipt, which receipt should also be kept.

All postage stamps and stamped envelopes are furnished postmasters, upon their requisition on the Third Assistant Postmaster-General. An order is sent to the stamp agent at New York, and the package is deposited in the New York post office to be registered and mailed. Therefore, postmasters, upon the receipt of their bills, should carefully read the caption of the bills which accompany them, by which they will see that the "Return Registered Stamp or Envelope bill" must be sent to the New York post office, and not to the stamp agent, nor to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, which is often done.

The bills relating to the registration should not be confounded with the bills or receipts sent to be signed and forwarded to the Department.

Senders should also be taken to return the bills immediately, properly signed, etc., because if the stamps or envelopes are not received, the fact will then be known to the Department, without delay.

ACCOUNTS AND RETURNS OF POSTMASTERS.
We have not room for full instructions under this head. Before rendering their accounts, Postmasters should examine carefully the directions in Chapters XXV, XXVI, XXVII, and XXVIII of the Book of Regulations, as well as the pamphlet of Instructions, issued May 1, 1861, at pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

On railroad and steamboat routes it is the duty of route agents—1st. To receive letters written after the mail has closed, and way-letters prepaid by stamps; to mail and post bill and letters, and direct them to the proper office for delivery and distribution; and to make report of all such letters. 2d. To assort the mails for the several offices, being intrusted with the key to the iron lock for that purpose. 3d. To attend to delivery and receipt of mail bags. 4th. To report to the Inspection Office all irregularities of service on the route, especially every instance in which they fail to receive or deliver a mail where one is due, with the causes of such failure—which, if not known, must be ascertained by inquiry.

MISCELLANEOUS.
It is the duty of the postmaster who is in office at the commencement of a quarter, then to collect the newspaper postage quarterly in advance, if unpaid; and if there are subscribers who wish to pay yearly in advance, he is by law obliged to receive it; but he cannot lawfully demand more than one quarter's postage in advance. The remainder of the postage is entitled to all the commissions thereon, although he may be immediately superseded by the appointment of a successor; but he should leave in the office a list of such as have paid in advance.

This right extends to a postmaster, even if he knows he is about retiring from office. In fact, he is obliged by law to receive the postage quarterly in advance, the official quarter commencing July 1, 1861, and ending April 1, 1862, unless he commences the middle, or at any other irregular time in the quarter, the entire current quarter must be paid for, or transient rates collected till the beginning of the ensuing regular quarter.

In Article 13 of the Quarterly Account Current, every postmaster will credit himself with the amount of postage on unpaid letters, if any, remaining in his office at the end of the quarter, the same as before the passage of the act of 27th Feb. 1861, but without sending a list of such letters. The regulations in chapter XXV (1860), are unchanged, except so far as concerns allowances of free letters. No compensation is now made for the delivery of free letters or newspapers. (See Instructions of May 1, 1861, Art. 7, page 4.)

If a person puts a one-cent stamp only on a letter to be mailed, the inference is that he fulfills the prepay the postage in full is intentional, and the letter should be treated as if wholly unpaid. Where more than one cent is paid, and not the full postage, directions in sec. 106, chapter ix, must be followed by the postmaster.

The law authorizing postmasters whose commissions do not exceed \$200 a year, to frank their private letters, allows them to inclose money or other things in such letters, (not to exceed half an ounce in weight) on their own private account, but not for others, or for other persons.

The laws of Congress do not extend any protection to correspondents before their letters are placed in a post office, or in the custody of a postmaster or other agent of the Department authorized to receive them, or in the custody of an accommodation, receiver, or P. M. General, nor after such letters have been delivered to the parties to whom they are addressed, or their authorized agents. The statutes of some of the States provide for the punishment of persons guilty of stealing or violating letters when they are placed in the post office, or after they are delivered therefrom.

Letters intended for the mails are considered to be in custody of a postmaster when placed in any depository furnished or provided by him for their reception.

A postmaster should not charge commissions on unpaid letters to be "forwarded," but should charge the postage thereon in his account of mails sent.

A postmaster may frank a letter to Canada the same as to any point in the United States; but it is optional for the Canadian P. O. Department, to deliver such letters free, or charge full postage on it, at its pleasure.

If a letter, franked by a person entitled to the franking privilege, comes from the mailing office charged with postage, the postmaster at the office where the letter is received, if the franking is erroneous, may correct the error, and deliver the letter free.

If a newspaper is put up so that it cannot be examined without breaking the wrapper, it should be charged with letter postage by weight.

Cents are not a legal tender for postage; but postmasters may receive them in payment of postage when offered. In accounting with the Department, however, they cannot pay them out.

All dead letters with inclosures of the slightest value, down to a postage stamp, are returned to the writers with their names upon the post offices appear; but this is frequently neglected.

Dead letter money may at any time be reclaimed on proof of ownership.

Letters sent to dead letter office for want of postage or proper direction, are generally examined and returned to the writers, whether containing inclosures or not, and the great mass of other letters are now, read, but destroyed, because there is not sufficient clerical force authorized for the work. It is, however, the intention of the Department to provide an adequate force for the restoration of such large number of dead letters, without inclosure, than at present.

Packages of medicines are not expressly named as mailable matter; but if done so as not to endanger the mails, they may be sent at letter rates.

On account of minor circumstances a parent, as the natural guardian, has the right to control the correspondence of his minor children; but when questions of this kind arise, it is best to report all the facts to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, and ask his advice on each case.

Newspapers and periodicals, regularly mailed to bona fide subscribers, are not "transient printed matter," and may, therefore, be mailed by agents, as well as publishers, in the same manner, and with the same privileges, as if they were mailed to such subscribers directly from the office of publication. Provided, the agent makes and files in the mailing office a statement signed by him, showing the names of the papers or periodicals which he thus mails, the names of the subscribers, and the number of copies of each paper or periodical, and the dates to which their respective subscriptions extend, at each office to which said papers or periodicals are directed.

Postmasters are required to keep a supply of postage stamps for sale, and to see that letters are duly prepaid by stamps; but it is not intended to throw upon them the labor of affixing the stamps upon letters when the writers might, without inconvenience, have done it themselves.

A person having the franking privilege can not lend his frank to be sent away or to be used by others for their private correspondence; and letters thus improperly franked must be treated like other unpaid letters held for postage.

No person can be appointed postmaster who cannot read and write in English, and he must be an actual resident of the city or town wherein the post office is situated or within the delivery of the office.

Married women or minors cannot be postmasters. A postmaster may hold any office under a State or Federal Government, or be a member of either branch of the Legislature, provided there is no law of his State to the contrary.

No person can be employed either as clerk in a post office or as mail carrier, less than sixteen years old.

Every postmaster should have at least one sworn assistant, ready to take charge of the office in case of necessity.

No person, not duly sworn, should be allowed to handle the mails.

No postmaster, assistant postmaster or clerk in a post office can hold a mail contract, or be concerned in carrying the mails.

The securities of a postmaster, in the event of his death, or vacancy from other cause, are responsible for the proper management of the office till a successor is appointed and qualified.

In addressing the Department, care should be used to avoid writing upon more than one subject in the same letter. Different subjects go to different offices, as above stated.

Copies of papers on file cannot be furnished to applicants unless on certificate of counsel that the same are required in a suit commenced, and actually pending in a court of record.

Treasury Notes.—Postmasters are to receive treasury notes in payment of postage, but it is not expected that they will put themselves to inconvenience by returning specie in any considerable amounts by way of making change.

Weekly newspapers only are entitled to go free in the mail to subscribers within the county where published.

When a package of newspapers or periodicals comes to an address for a club, the person so addressed is held for the postage, notwithstanding the duty of the postmaster to collect the postage from the individual members of the club. It must be paid in advance for at least a quarter, on the package.

TIME OCCUPIED IN THE TRANSMISSION OF LETTERS FROM DISTANT POINTS TO NEW YORK CITY.

From	Days	Form	Days
Alexandria, Va.	1	Montreal, Ca.	2
Bangor, Me.	2		
Buffalo, N. Y.	2		
Concord, N. H.	1	Norwalk	5 to 7
Chicago, Ill.	2	New Mexico	20
Cincinnati, Ohio	2	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1
California, overland 25 26		Portland, Me.	1
Do By Steamers via		Quebec, Ca.	2
Panama, 20 to 23			
Detroit, Mich.	2	St. Louis, Mo.	2 to 3
Dubuque, Iowa	2	St. Paul, Minn.	1 to 8
Indianapolis, Ind.	2	Toledo, Ohio	2
		Washington, D. C.	1
		Whitman, Del.	1
		York, Pa.	1
		Orion	1
		Wash. Terr'y.	30 to 40
		Utah	2

TIME OF CLOSING MAILS AT THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

NORTH.—5 A. M., and 3 30 P. M., by way of Hudson River and Central Railroad to Buffalo and Canada.

SOUTH.—5 A. M., and 4 30 P. M. and 10 30 P. M. EAST.—5 A. M., 2 P. M., 8 30 P. M., (Railroad), and 3 P. M., (Fall River Steamboat).

WEST.—5 A. M., and 3 30 P. M., by Erie Railroad, via Dumkirk, Cincinnati, &c.

MAILS ARE DUE AT NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

NORTH.—Due 12 30 A. M.; and 10 P. M.
SOUTH.—Due 3 30 A. M.; 1 30 P. M.; 6 30 P. M., and 10 P. M.
EAST.—Due (Steamboat) 7 A. M.; Railroad (way mail) 10 45 A. M.; (Boston Express) 6 30 A. M.; 5 30 P. M.; and 12 Midnight.
WEST.—Due 12 M.; and 10 30 P. M.

DATES OF DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS OF MAILS AT LONDON.

Country	When Dispatched	Letters arrive in about Days	When Due
Africa W. coast of	23d each month	10th each month	
Australia			
via Melbourne 26th		37 13th	
via Southampton 30th		61 19th	
Brazil		40 5th	
Buenos Ayres 9th		40 5th	
China			
via Melbourne 10th & 26th		43 13th & 27th	
via Southampton 4th & 20th		45 3d and 19th	
India			
via			

UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. II. No. 6.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1862.

WHOLE No. 18.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid), excepting those to officers of the Government, having the franking privilege, and on official business, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, pre-payment in money being prohibited.

All drop letters must be prepaid, one cent each, by postage-stamps.

Letters weighing one-half ounce or under, to United States offices, being single rate, will be charged as follows:

For any distance not over 3,000 miles. 3 cts

For any distance over 3,000 miles. 10 cts

Ten cents is also the charge on each single letter from points in the United States east of the Rocky mountains to any State or Territory on the Pacific, and from the Pacific to points east of the Rocky mountains in the United States, whether sent over land or by sea, and must be prepaid.

For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged.

To and from British N. A. Provinces, for distance not over 3,000 miles. 10 cts

For any distance over 3,000 miles. 10 cts

For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces.

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter, which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever.

Daguerreotypes when sent in the mail, are to be charged with letter postage by weight.

The charge on a letter conveyed by private ship or vessel is five cents, (instead of six, or ten-cent), if delivered at the post office where the same shall arrive. If forwarded by mail, two cents in addition to the domestic rate to which it would be subject if originating at such place, must be prepaid.

Upon letters and packets received from the masters, clerks, or other employees of steamboats on waters deemed post-roads, the persons addressed will be charged, when delivered to them, the same postage as if the letters and packets had been conveyed in the mail overland, although not conveyed under an arrangement with the Department.

If a letter be received as above, to be sent in the mail to another office, there will be charged the proper rate of postage for the distance between the place at which the letter was placed on board the boat and the office to which it is addressed.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

Postage on Daily Papers to subscribers, when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, per quarter, (3 months). 39 cts

For Tri-Weekly. 13 1/2 "

For Semi-Weekly. 14 1/2 "

For Weekly. 14 1/2 "

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS weighing not more than one and a half ounces, when circulated in the State where published, shall be charged with one-half cent per ounce.

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS, to actual subscribers in the county where printed and published, go free.

SMALL NEWSPAPERS, published monthly or oftener, and Pamphlets containing not more than 16 octavo pages each, when sent in packages weighing not less than 8 ounces, and prepaid by postage stamps, shall be charged one cent per ounce, or fraction of an ounce.

Regular dealers in newspapers and periodicals are allowed to receive and to pay postage by the package on newspapers and periodicals at the same rate as if paid quarterly or yearly in advance.

Maps, sheet music, fashion plates, engravings, lithographs, or photographic prints, on rollers or in paper covers, or in boxes, and printed matter, graphic paper, and letter envelopes, in packages not exceeding in any case four pounds, the rate is one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce to any place in the United States under fifteen hundred miles, and two cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce over fifteen hundred miles, prepaid by postage-stamps.

Same rates on cards, either blank or printed, and blanks in packages weighing at least eight ounces, and seals or cuttings in packages not exceeding eight ounces.

PUBLISHERS OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS may send to each other from their respective offices of publication free of postage, one copy of each publication, and may also send to each actual subscriber, included in their publications, bills and receipts for the same, free of postage. They may also state on their respective publications the date when the subscription expires, to be written or printed.

CIRCULARS.—Unsealed circulars, advertisements, business card, transient newspaper, and every other article of transient printed matter, (except books and small publications, as above), not weighing over three ounces, sent in the mail to any part of the United States, are chargeable with one cent postage each, to be prepaid by postage stamps.

When more than one circular is printed on a sheet, or a circular and letter, each must be charged with a single rate. A business card, or the name of the sender, on an unsealed envelope of a circular, subject to the entire packet to letter postage.

To include or conceal a letter or other thing (except bills and receipts for subscription) in, or to write or print anything after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marks, or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, other than the name and address of the person to whom it is to be sent, and the date when subscription expires, subjects the package to letter postage.

Postage cannot be prepaid on regular newspapers or periodicals, for a less term than one quarter, (except by regular dealers, as above); and in all cases postage must be paid on such matter at the commencement of a quarter.

Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be remailed without being chargeable with postage.

Where packages of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office directed to one address, and the names of the club of subscribers to which they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance, shall be handed to the postmaster, he shall deliver the same to their respective owners. But this does not apply to weekly newspapers which circulate free in the county where printed and published.

Weekly newspapers and all other printed matter to the British North American Provinces, although sent from counties bordering on the line, are chargeable with the same rates as when sent out of the States where published, to any point in the U. S.

All transient matter must be prepaid by stamps. But if it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or short-paid, the postage must be collected on delivery at the full rate.

Great neglect exists in the strict quarterly prepayment of postage on printed matter sent to regular subscribers. No such paper should be delivered, unless it is either prepaid at the mailing office, or at the delivery office, for at least a quarter. If not so prepaid, postmasters must collect postage on such copy as on transient matter. If they fail, they will be charged with the full postage due, and in clear cases, removed from office for their neglect.

Presidential Appointments.

Below we give the remainder of the list (omitted in our last number) of Postmasters appointed by the President since March 4, 1861:—

MARYLAND.

Annapolis, Queen Anne County, Thomas Ireland, May 10.

Baltimore, Baltimore County, William H. Purnell, April 15.

Cumberland, Allegany County, George A. Hoffman, March 27.

Frederick, Frederick County, William D. Jenks, May 10.

Hagerstown, Washington County, John Schleigh, May 29.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Allegheny, Allegheny Co., Samuel Ildale, April 17.

Altoona, Blair County, George W. Patton, May 6.

Bethlehem, Northampton County, Robert Peysert, April 8.

Carlisle, Cumberland Co., George Zinn, April 19.

Chambersburg, Franklin County, John W. Deal, April 15.

Columbia, Lancaster Co., Henry H. Fry, March 27.

Danville, Montour County, Andrew F. Russell, May 29.

Easton, Northampton County, Charles C. Jennings, March 27.

Erie, Erie County, Joseph M. Storritt, March 27.

Germantown, Philadelphia, Hillary Krickbaum, April 10.

Harrisburg, Dauphin County, George W. Bargner, March 27.

Hollidaysburg, Blair County, James Bingham, March 29.

Honola, Wayne County, Ralph L. Briggs, May 31.

Jonestown, Cambria County, Isaac B. Chanler, April 8.

Kennington, Philadelphia, Samuel Ware, May 24.

Lancaster, Lancaster County, John J. Cochran, March 22.

Lewisburg, Union County, George W. Forrest, April 6.

Lewistown, Mifflin Co., Samuel Comfort, April 30.

Meadville, Crawford County, Joseph C. Hays, May 6.

Minersville, Schuylkill County, Thomas T. Davis, April 6.

New Castle, Lawrence Co., David Emery, April 8.

Norristown, Montgomery County, Robert Iredell, April 10.

Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Cornelius A. Waldron, April 20.

Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Sidney T. Von Bonhorst, March 27.

Pittston, Luzerne County, James Searle, May 15.

Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Mrs. Margaret Sylliman, April 6.

Reading, Berks County, Jacob Knapp, May 17.

Scranton, Luzerne Co., Douglas H. Jay, April 22.

Tamquesha, Schuylkill County, Marmaduke P. Fowler, April 6.

Uniontown, Fayette County, James H. Springer, April 17.

Washington, Washington County, James McDermott, May 28.

West Chester, Chester Co., Franklin Taylor, May 11.

Wilkesbarre, Luzerne County, Samuel M. Barton, April 10.

Williamsport, Lycoming County, John R. Campbell, April 30.

York, York County, Alexander J. Frey, April 5.

OHIO.

Akron, Summit County, Richard Elkins, March 29.

Canton, Stark Co., William K. Miller, March 29.

Cincinnati, Ross County, Theodore Sberer, Jan. 13, 1862.

Cincinnati, Hamilton County, John C. Baum, April 15, 1861.

Cincinnati, Pickaway County, Columbus B. Mason, March 28.

Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., Edwin Cowles, April 4.

Columbus, Franklin County, John Graham, April 2.

Dayton, Montgomery County, William F. Conly, March 27.

Delaware, Delaware County, Abraham Thompson, April 8.

Fremont, Sandusky County, Henry R. Sbono, March 27.

Hamilton, Butler Co., William H. Blair, April 23.

Lancaster, Fairfield County, Charles M. L. Wise, April 30.

Mansfield, Richland Co., John Schertz, April 30.

Marietta, Washington Co., Sals Bosworth, April 17.

Massillon, Stark County, Jacob Schertz, April 30.

Mount Vernon, Knox County, C. Sherman Pyle, March 28.

Newark, Licking Co., Charles B. Griffin, March 29.

Oberlin, Lorain County, George F. H. Stephens, March 28.

Painesville, Lake Co., Moses M. Seymour, April 8.

Piqua, Miami, Andrew J. Roe, March 30.

Portsmouth, Scioto County, William J. Becker, March 30.

Tiffin, Seneca County, H. L. McKee, March 28.

Toledo, Lucas County, Edward P. Russett, May 16.

Uxahana, Champaign County, Newton Ambrose, April 8.

Warren, Trumbull Co., Comfort M. Patch, April 7.

Wooler, Wayne County, Enos Foreman, April 17.

Xenia, Greene County, William Lewis, April 8.

Zanesville, Muskingum County, Fenrod Bateman, March 28.

MICHIGAN.

Adrian, Lenawee Co., Charles Redfield, March 28.

Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, John J. Thompson, April 9.

Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Tolman W. Hall, March 27.

Coldwater, Branch Co., David R. Purinton, April 17.

Detroit, Wayne Co., William A. Howard, March 18.

Flint, Genesee County, Washington O'Donoghue, March 27.

Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Noyes L. Avery, April 27.

Hillsdale, Hillsdale Co., Samuel Russell, August 1.

Jackson, Jackson County, Amos Root, April 8.

Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, James A. Walter, March 27.

Lansing, Ingham Co., Allen R. Burt, March 28.

Marshall, Calhoun County, Seth Lewis, March 27.

Niles, Berrien County, Francis Quinn, March 20.

Pontiac, Oakland Co., Don C. Buckland, March 25.

Port Huron, St. Clair County, Martin S. Gillett, May 23.

Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Co., Joseph W. Van Possen, April 9.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Georgetown, Washington County, Henry Addison, June 5.

Washington, Washington County, Lewis Clepbane, May 10.

VIRGINIA.

Alexandria, Alexandria Co., William D. Massey, May 29.

Parkersburg, Wood County, James M. Boreman, May 29.

Washington, Ohio County, Archibald W. Campbell, March 23.

MISOURI.

Boonville, Cooper County, Thomas M. Campbell, March 23.

Hannibal, Marion County, Charles L. Muller, April 11.

Jefferson City, Cole County, Allen P. Richardson, March 30.

Kansas City, Jackson County, Francis Foster, October 18.

Lexington, La Fayette County, John B. Alexander, March 30.

St. Joseph, Buchanan County, John L. Bottinger, April 1.

St. Louis, St. Louis Co., Peter L. Foy, March 30.

FRANKFORD, Franklin County, William A. Gaines, March 27.

Lexington, Fayette County, Lyman Beecher Todd, March 23.

Louisville, Jefferson Co., John J. Speed, March 13.

Paducah, McCracken County, Charles T. Bronson, April 5.

Paris, Bourbon County, Selby Lileston, June 5.

INDIANA.

Evansville, Vanderburgh Co., James H. McNeely, April 8.

Fort Wayne, Allen Co., Moses Drake, Jr., March 29.

Indianapolis, Marion Co., Alexander H. Connor, April 9.

La Fayette, Tippecanoe Co., James P. Luse, May 24.

La Porte, La Porte Co., George B. Roberts, April 6.

Luganport, Cass County, William Wilson, April 6.

Madison, Jefferson Co., Victor King, March 27.

Michigan City, La Porte County, John Andrews, April 6.

New Albany, Floyd County, John M. Wilson, March 28.

Richmond, Wayne Co., Achilles Willams, April 2.

St. Joseph, St. Joseph Co., Edward R. Farnam, April 6.

Vincennes, Knox Co., J. Hubbard M. Smith, March 28.

ILLINOIS.

Alton, Madison Co., Joshua G. Lamb, March 30.

Ankara, Kane County, C. W. S. Bangs, March 28.

Belleville, St. Clair Co., James W. Lyndale, April 8.

Belvidere, Boone County, James Fuller, March 27.

Bloomington, McLean County, James Allen, Jr., April 7.

Carro, Alexander Co., David T. Luegar, March 27.

Chicago, Cook County, John L. Scripps, March 28.

Dixon, Lee County, James L. Camp, April 2.

Elgin, Kane County, George B. Raymond, April 17.

Fresport, Stephenson County, Charles K. Judson, April 2.

Galena, Jo Daviess Co., Warren W. Huntington, March 27.

Jacksonburg, Knox Co., Clark E. Carr, March 27.

Jacksonville, Morgan County, John D. Strong, March 30.

Joliet, Will County, Joseph L. Bnden, March 27.

Kankakee, De Kalb Co., Daniel E. Parker, May 25.

La Salle, La Salle Co., C. B. Mason, March 27.

Monmouth, Warren Co., William H. Pierce, May 30.

Morris, Grundy Co., Edmond H. Hanna, March 27.

Ottawa, La Salle Co., C. B. King, March 27.

Peoria, Peoria Co., George C. Weston, March 27.

Peru, La Salle Co., Samuel L. Smith, March 27.

Union, Hancock Co., James H. Smith, March 27.

Urbana, Adams Co., Abraham Jones, April 29.

Rockford, Winnebago County, Melanction Smith, April 2.

Rock Island, Rock Island County, Calvin Truesdell, April 2.

Springfield, Sangamon County, John Armstrong, July 20.

Sterling, Whitesides Co., L. King Hawthorn, April 2.

Waukegan, Lake Co., James Y. Cory, May 7.

WISCONSIN.

Beloit, Rock Co., Lucius B. Fisher, March 13.

Fond-du-Lac, Fond-du-Lac County, John C. Lewis, April 8.

Green Bay, Brown Co., William J. Green, April 10.

Kenosha, Kenosha Co., James M. Burgess, March 23.

Manitowish, Adams Co., Michael Frank, April 6.

La Crosse, La Crosse County, William C. Rogers, April 28.

Madison, Dane Co., Elieba W. Keyes, April 10.

Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, John Lockwood, March 21.

Oshkosh, Winnebago Co., Charles Hall, March 28.

Portage City, Columbia County, Stillman E. Dana, April 8.

Prairie Du Chien, Crawford Co., James H. Green, May 21.

Racine, Racine County, John Tapley, March 27.

Stevens Point, Sheboygan County, John J. Brown, April 8.

Waterloo, Jefferson Co., Jacob Jessen, March 27.

White Water, Walworth Co., Hausen L. Hann, June 7.

IOWA.

Burlington, Des Moines Co., James F. Abrahams, March 22.

Davenport, Scott Co., Charles H. Eldridge, April 5.

Des Moines, Polk Co., John Treadwell, May 6.

Dubuque, Dubuque Co., Michael Frank, April 6.

Iowa City, Johnson County, James R. Hartsock, April 30.

Koosauk, Lee County, James B. Howell, April 8.

Lyons, Clinton Co., George M. Davis, April 30.

Quincy, Plesant Co., George W. Edwards, July 16.

Muscatine, Muscatine Co., John Mahin, March 30.

CALIFORNIA.

Beneva, Solano County, John W. Fisher, April 10.

Columbia, Tehama County, Myron B. Fisher, April 10.

Dortches, Sierra County, Andrew J. McKinsey, May 28.

Georgetown, El Dorado Co., Henry Jacobs, April 8.

Grass Valley, Nevada County, Martin S. Norton, April 10.

Graysville, Yuba County, Thomas J. McCormick, April 10.

Novada City, Nevada County, Edwin F. Bean, April 10.

Oroville, Butte Co., Joel G. Downer, April 8.

Placerville, El Dorado County, W. H. Rogers, April 10.

Sacramento City, Sacramento Co., George Rowland, April 10.

San Francisco, San Francisco County, Samuel H. Parker, April 4.

San Jose, Santa Clara County, Simon M. Cutler, April 8.

Shasta, Shasta Co., Theodor G. Elliot, April 13.

Sonora, Tuolumne Co., Albert W. Paxton, April 17.

Stockton, San Joaquin Co., C. O. Burt, May 28.

Yreka, Siskiyou Co., Curtis M. Pyle, May 28.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, MARCH, 1862.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 23, 1861.
DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General,
Washington, D. C.
The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmaster-General, and Chief Clerk of the Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General,
November 21st, 1861.

FOREIGN POSTAGE TABLE.—The table of postage rates on foreign letters and printed matter, which appears on the 3d page of this paper, is revised and corrected monthly, and may be relied on as officially correct. The table for the current month should always be consulted, as important changes are occasionally required.

What is found in the columns of the MAIL, inserted as it is, only after consultation with the proper officers of the Department—especially on material questions—may safely be relied upon as officially reliable to the current rules, regulations, and constructions of existing laws.

We occasionally receive from postmasters inquiries respecting supposed inconsistencies between certain rates given in our foreign postage tables and those fixed by former instructions of the Department; and similar alleged errors are sometimes pointed out to us concerning other official instructions and regulations.

We will again respectfully inform all who use the MAIL for reference, that the information it contains upon the different branches of postal matters is strictly correct and reliable. What appears in these columns is carefully prepared with a view to accuracy; and upon all points at all complicated, the proper officers of the Department are consulted.

Changes and additions must constantly and necessarily occur, and those who wish to keep posted, must examine each current number of the MAIL.

"Can't Do Without It."

We are constantly receiving communications from postmasters and others, requesting us to forward specimen copies of the UNITED STATES MAIL, and our compliance with these requests has thus far, in almost every instance, been followed by the receipt of a subscriber's name, with the expression of his regret that ignorance of the existence of our paper had prevented him from sooner availing himself of the useful information contained in its columns; and the almost unanimous voice of our old subscribers, in remitting for the second volume, is—"We can't afford to be without the MAIL."

We have printed a large extra edition of our present issue, which we have mailed to non-subscribing postmasters, and others, as specimens, in order that ignorance of our existence may no longer be a reason for the absence of their names from our subscription books, and also that they may have an opportunity of deciding whether or not they can afford to be "without the MAIL."

PARTIAL PAYMENTS OF FOREIGN POSTAGE.—Frequent inquiries are made by country postmasters why letters from England, partially prepaid, are subject to full postage. In reply, we publish Article 3d of the Postal Treaty between the United States and Great Britain.

"ARTICLE III. Upon all letters posted in one country and delivered in the other, these rates of postage, both sea and inland, shall be combined into one rate, of which, payment in advance shall be optional in either country. It shall, however, not be permitted to pay less than the whole combined rate."

RATING MANUSCRIPTS.—Somebody insists that a postmaster has no right to charge letter postage on a manuscript package on its way to a publisher, in case, according to the 92d section of the Post Office Regulations, it does not ask for or communicate any information. He is wrong, of course. If the law imposes letter postage on even printed matter upon which any word is written, or signs representing words are made, how are parcels entirely composed of writing to be considered exempt?

THE POSTAL SERVICE AND THE SOLDIERS.—Mr. Colfax, of Indiana, has reported a bill authorizing the Postmaster General to permit additional articles to be sent by mail at the present rates of book postage. He said that under the present law, roots, cuttings and seeds could be sent by mail at one cent per ounce, but stockings for a soldier, flaps, and many other things could only go at letter postage rates. The bill passed unanimously.

This is unquestionably a very timely and just measure of reform, and we have no doubt it will at once pass the Senate and become a law.

Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, are by law authorized to deposit their letters in any post office without the prepayment of postage, and such letters must be forwarded.

Money Orders.

It appears that a Bill has passed the U. S. House of Representatives, authorizing the Postmaster General "to establish a uniform money order system at all post offices deemed suitable therefor." For orders from five to ten dollars, a commission of five cents will be charged; from ten to twenty dollars, ten cents, and for every additional ten dollars, five cents.

Whether this measure has the sanction of the Postmaster General, or of the Post Office Committee, we do not know. But we fear that the proposed system will turn out a very different thing in practice from what it appears to be in theory. It is well known that postmasters' bonds in a large number of post offices, are quite inconsiderable, owing to the small amount of funds in their hands at any one time. If they were to be made the custodians of monies for the purchase of these orders, the bonds would have to be increased so largely that in many cases would there not be great difficulty in filling the offices? In reply, it may be said that the small offices will not be made "order" offices—that only the large ones, say those known as "Presidential," or one in each county need be selected. But it is the selection of the small offices which in this country, will alone make the proposed system worth adopting, because between all places of any considerable size, we have Expresses and banking facilities, by which funds and valuables may be transmitted with at least equal despatch and security as are afforded by the mails.

Again, how are postmasters to be kept in ready funds at all times, to meet the payment of orders drawn on them? The Department itself could never know what would be required in any one office (as they do know in distributing postage stamps)—and if the available funds for this purpose were to be left to depend on the amount accruing from the sale of money orders and postages, could the prompt payment of all orders presented, be always and at all times depended on?

How shall the payment of the orders be regulated? Must every one presenting an order be required to get himself identified as the party authorized to present and collect it? If not, no increased security attaches to the system, as the stealing of the orders would be about the same thing as purloining the money. If identification were required, we fear it would almost defeat the whole object, as very many of the recipients, to large towns and cities especially, are made to transient and unknown persons, numbers of whom would be found entirely destitute of the means of identification.

The money order system once in full operation, it is, we think, safe to infer that at least one thousand holders of these orders, would present themselves at the New York office alone, each morning. How long would it take, and how many clerks, to serve this impatient crowd in a satisfactory way, and with a strict regard to suitable forms and checks to serve against the endless attempts to cheat and swindle the Department, which have always been so rife? Shall the Department be held responsible, or the local postmaster, or who, for the payment of an "order" to the wrong party, although bearing the same name as the real owner? The government having received the amount at a distant office, it would be hard to refuse to make good any loss of this kind.

It may be that all these embarrassments which suggest themselves, will be swept away by the experience and ingenuity of the officials upon whom, should the system be adopted, its execution will devolve. We hope so. Our object in this pointing out what are some of the practical difficulties which suggest themselves to us, is simply to attract attention to the subject while it is under discussion at head quarters.

Obituary.

Died, at the Sherman House, Chicago, Ill., on the 7th ult, JAMES B. HOLBROOK, aged 27 years.

The deceased was the only son of the editor and publisher of this paper. We desire in this public manner, to acknowledge our deep obligations to our friends of the Chicago post office, and to others in that city, for the kindness, attention, and sympathy extended to one who was thus providentially thrown among them to linger and to die, comparatively a stranger, and away from his home and most of his immediate relatives. We have the blessed consolation to know that everything was done that could be, to make up for the absence of a devoted mother and father, at the couch of sickness and death.

DIED.—On Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1862, MORSON CLARKE, Esq., aged 62 years. The deceased had for a long period been connected with the Post Office Department in various capacities. About seventeen years since, he was appointed by the Hon. Robert H. Morris, then Postmaster, as Superintendent of the Distribution Department, in the New York Post Office, in which capacity he served for about five years, when he was appointed to the office of Blank Agent, the duties of which he fulfilled to the entire satisfaction of the Department. In August, 1860, he also undertook the stamped envelope agency, and continued to perform the arduous labors of both these positions up to within a few days of his death. For some years he has been in feeble health. Mr. Clarke was a faithful and efficient officer, and his death is a severe loss, not only to his numerous friends, but also to the Department in whose service so many years of his life were spent.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—The present number of the MAIL completes the half year of the second volume. Although our terms require yearly payment in advance, most of our patrons seem to have forgotten that fact, as few have remitted the amount some time since due on the second year.

Southern Postal Service.

There can be no doubt what the interruption, and in fact the cessation of postal facilities between the Northern and Southern States, has been considered by the people of both sections, as among the most important, pinching sacrifices and privations caused by the late rebellion. And the restoration of former mail facilities will unquestionably be one of the first things thought of and hoped for by the Southerners when they fairly awake from this hateful dream of secession. They have not only been deprived of correspondence with the North, but their own rickety, incomplete system substituted for the more perfect institution of the government, it is well known, has answered only a limited and unsatisfactory purpose. In making good as speedily as possible the sad havoc produced by the "confederate" dictators, we may safely predict that there will be no occasion to complain of the official action of Postmaster General Blair, and his efficient Assistants.

Already it is said that the Post Office Department is rapidly following up the operations of the army by the re-establishment of post offices and post routes. Wherever any portion of the seceded States is recovered, postal facilities are promptly renewed. Post offices have been reopened in North Carolina, at Ship Island, in the Mississippi, and in various parts of Tennessee. Numerous applications have already been made for the appointment of a postmaster at Nashville. The people of the recovered portion of the seceded States manifest great anxiety to resume their wonted relations to the Union government in this respect.

In this connection, the New York Sunday Mercury remarks:—

"As our armies advance over the South, and the different States resume their allegiance and come once more under the administration of the Federal Government, it will be desirable to appoint new and trustworthy office-holders in those places. We suggest to Postmaster General Blair the plan of appointing ladies as postmasters throughout the villages and towns of the South and Border States. The business is light, easy, and well adapted to female management; and statistics show that post offices thus conducted are more prosperous and lucrative than those under the management of men—probably because the temptation to visit these post offices and patronize them is greater. Here is a chance for helping the weaker sex, increasing the national revenue, and, at the same time, the general intelligence and fraternity of the country—all by one simple and easy method. Try it, Mr. Blair."

We see no particular objection to this suggestion, except perhaps the report often repeated, that the "softer" have really proved the harder sex at the South, in denunciation of the North, and in giving aid and comfort to the enemy. Still female repentance, on the other hand, is said to be generally more sincere and thorough, when it does come, than that of sinners. In this view of the case, and when satisfied that they have returned to their "first love," the appointing power may conclude to adopt the laudable endorsement of the Sage of Binghamton, when called to decide upon a post office appointment in his district, "I go for Nancy."

MAIL DEPRECIATIONS EXPLAINED.—Dr. R. O. Sidney, Special Agent of the Department, has caused the arrest of two young men, Charles and Luther Hughes, ostensibly engaged in selling newspapers on the New York Central and Oswego Railroads, whom he detected in tampering with the mails in transit between Albany and Syracuse, and by whom a series of robberies had been committed, it is supposed by means of false mail keys. These arrests will probably involve other parties concerned in the transaction, and the discovery of the robbers will no doubt account for the numerous irregularities and losses which have occurred in the mail service between New York and various points on the Central and Oswego Roads within the past few months.

We understand that the proof against the accused is conclusive, several checks known to have been in the mail having been found in their possession.

The examination of these young men took place before a U. S. Commissioner at Syracuse on the 27th ult, and in default of \$2,000 bail, in each case, they were committed for final trial.

IMPORTANT ARREST IN THE DETROIT POST OFFICE.—Since November last, numerous complaints have been made to the Post Office Department and the Special Agents, of depreciations practised upon valuable letters passing through the Detroit (Mich.) post office. A number of registered letters mailed at New York, and sent to Detroit for distribution, for places beyond that point, had been most mysteriously reduced in value, on their final receipt, to the extent of the money originally enclosed. So obvious did it appear, from the investigations by the Agents of the Department, that these robberies occurred at Detroit, that, acting upon this theory, a series of experiments were adopted. From the postmaster in Putnam county, Missouri:—
I cannot afford to be without the MAIL, as it contains very much information in a small space in regard to the duties of post office officials, which, in the absence of the valuable little sheet, would require time and labor to acquire. It lights up very much the labors of bygone days. We therefore hail it as a welcome visitor at our desk, and cannot get along without it.

The postmaster of Flint, Mich., sends us a new subscriber, and says:—
We find your publication very valuable, and will take pleasure in inducing postmasters in this section of the country to take it.
Post Office, W. Mich., Ill.,
Jan. 14, 1862.

J. HOLBROOK, Esq.,
SIR.—Incidentally I happened to see one of your papers, THE U. S. MAIL, and am so much pleased with it, and impressed with its great usefulness to any member of the "craft," or P. O. gang, that I hasten to enclose you the subscription for Vol. 2.—(I want the back numbers, beginning with Vol. 2.) I wonder that you have not taken some means to bring so valuable a work before the P. M.'s of the country, as I am satisfied that a majority of the sensible postmasters would jump at the chance of subscribing. Indeed I am of the opinion that the Department would save much perplexity and annoyance by the blunders of country postmasters, did it, as a matter of economy, cause the U. S. MAIL to be sent to every P. M. in the country.

"THE MAIL-BAG FOLLOWING THE FLAG."—We continue in this number the publication of the list of new and re-established post offices, which just now will be found of unusual interest and importance, from the fact that among them the names of post offices in the seceded States are beginning to re-appear. The recent series of Union victories has enabled the Department to extend over more the operations of the mail system over territory which has long been deprived of its benefits, and we recommend all who feel interested in an early resumption of correspondence with the South to note carefully such additions to our list. May they increase and multiply!

For the convenience of Post Offices, and until a new book appears, we would recommend the plan already adopted in the New York and some other offices, of copying them in manuscript, arranged alphabetically, so that when the place of destination upon a letter or package is not recollectcd at the moment, the catalogue can be consulted.

First Assistant Postmaster General Kassou is engaged in sending out instructions and making arrangements for re-establishing post offices and post routes as our armies advance into the so-called Confederate States.

Mr. A. H. Markland is following our forces into Tennessee, and Mr. J. J. Muller, also an Agent of the Department in this connection, is operating in the southern part of Kentucky. The post office at Nashville, and those in the eastern part of North Carolina, will soon be reopened. The latter State is to be supplied with mails by sea.

Too BAD.—The publisher of the Independent writes us that out of sixty-four copies of that paper, returned by postmasters recently, only thirteen were post-marked, the remainder having upon them nothing to show at what offices they were mailed. This won't do, gentlemen postmasters. Such wholesale violations of the orders of the Department are inausferable. Post-mark plainly, not only every letter, but all transient newspapers and other printed matter going out of your office.

R. Wyman Jenkins has been arrested by Special Agent SINKER, at Hudson, N. Y., on a charge of taking letters from the post office, addressed to Messrs. Gates & Hoyer, in whose employ Jenkins had been. It was his practice to go to the office and obtain the mails of his employers, and in this way, without creating the suspicion of the post office clerks, he was enabled to carry on his villainy. Jenkins was taken to Syracuse, and lodged in the Penitentiary.

For the U. S. Mail,
SALEM, Feb. 20, 1862

J. HOLBROOK, Esq.
DEAR SIR.—Having been a subscriber to your valuable paper for about one year, I perused with much interest a piece in a late number, headed "The Experiment," and was forcibly struck with the advantage of so benevolent and useful an enterprise. I at once entered into an arrangement with our postmaster, who, being a printer, kindly offered to print the notices, (corresponding with that in your paper, and used for Box 300, New Haven, Conn.) without charge, if I would furnish the stamps, which I agreed to do, and the plan has been tried for nearly three months. The very day that I mentioned the subject to the postmaster, he had a bundle of letters, all ready to send to the "Dead Letter Office." I told him to put the stamps on them, with the notice, and send them forward. I have since learned that one of those letters contained fifty dollars, and the owner of the same felt indignant, and was sorely struck with the loss of the funds for some time if they had gone to the Dead Letter Office, as was intended. I have objected to having my name used, or known in the matter. The postmaster informs me that he has many inquiries as to who owns Box 324, but as he is instructed not to tell, there is considerable curiosity to me to think his letter was not detained, as it would have deprived him of the funds for some time if they had gone to the Dead Letter Office, as was intended. I have objected to having my name used, or known in the matter. The postmaster informs me that he has many inquiries as to who owns Box 324, but as he is instructed not to tell, there is considerable curiosity to me to think his letter was not detained, as it would have deprived him of the funds for some time if they had gone to the Dead Letter Office, as was intended. 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UNITED STATES MAIL.

POSTAL DIRECTORY.

These columns have been carefully condensed from the old and new Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department, under the guidance and direction of the chief officers, past and present, of the Department, to whose careful revision they have been submitted since they were put in type. They will be kept as standing matter, and altered from time to time, as the action of Congress and the direction of the Postmaster-General and his Assistants, or further explanations, may render necessary. Such additions will be conspicuously noted as they occur.

Should further or more detailed information on any point, whether embraced or omitted in this synopsis, be required, it will be cheerfully supplied on application, in person or by letter, to the editor of the Mail.

HOW COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

TO THE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—Such as relate to the establishment and discontinuance of changes of sites, and names of post offices, appointment and removal of postmasters, and route and local agents; also, such as relate to foreign mails and applications for balances or postage scales, marking and rating stamps, &c. In applying for appointments, the applicant himself should address the Department, in addition to the recommendations.

TO THE SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—Such as relate to the putting in operation, change or discontinuance of mail routes, the designation of mail messengers, the distribution and dispatch of the mails, &c.

TO THE THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—Should apply to the quarterly returns of the depositaries of the Department, and applications and receipts for postage stamps, stamped envelopes, and dead letters; also, duplicate certificates for deposits made by postmasters in the treasury or deposit offices, &c.; likewise all dead letters, in respect to which, see Pamphlet of Regulations, issued May 1, 1861, for full and important instructions.

TO THE CHIEF CLERK, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Should be sent all communications respecting lost money letters, mail depredations, or other violations of law, or mail bags, locks and keys; also, all registers of the arrivals and departures of the mails, certificates of the service of route agents, reports of mail failures, applications for blank registers, all complaints against contractors, &c.

TO THE AUDITOR, POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—Should be sent all accounts, (except postmaster's quarterly returns,) letters relating to accounts either of postmasters or contractors, and all acknowledgments of drafts issued in payment of balances, &c.; also, the receipts of postmasters for public property turned over to them by their predecessors, letters reporting non-payment of drafts issued by the Auditor, and returns of District Attorneys and Marshals, and their proceedings in post office cases.

When, however, an objection arises for a special letter or report to the Department, it should, if relating to confidential matters, or the general interest of the Department, be addressed directly to the Postmaster-General.

MAKING UP MAILS.

Letters must bear the post-mark and post-bills the date, of the day on which the mail containing them is actually sent off.

Postage stamps must be canceled by an instrument made for that purpose, and used with black printer's ink, or effectually with a pen. The dating must not be used as a canceling stamp.

It is imperative on postmasters to stamp their letters plainly.

DELIVERY OF LETTERS.

The persons entitled to letters received by mail are those whose names are in the address.

The delivery of letters is to be made to the person addressed or according to his order. In special cases, orders are sometimes made by the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

Letters addressed to a firm may be delivered to any member of a firm, or to the principal, or to the person addressed or according to his order. In special cases, orders are sometimes made by the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

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SHIP AND STEAMBOAT LETTERS.

It is the duty of masters of steamboats to deliver into the post offices, or to a local agent of the Department, at the places at which they arrive, all letters (except such as are addressed to the vessel) received by them, or by any person employed on their boats, at any point on the route. Facility for omitting to do this, is not to be granted.

When not under contract with the Department, the master or manager of the ship or steamboat (if not foreign) is entitled to receive from the postmaster two cents a letter, (except on Lake Erie, where it is one cent), for which he must receipt, and, if under contract, he may receive one cent. Masters of foreign vessels must deliver the letters brought by them, but cannot be paid.

Letters brought by steamboat or ship, should be marked "steambot," or "ship," as the case may be, at the time of receiving them.

All letters placed on a mail steambot, on which the mails are in charge of a route agent, should go into the hands of such agent; and on these letters the master of the vessel is not entitled to receive any compensation. None but prepaid letters should be received on such steambot, and these should be duly mailed. But should any chance be unpaid, they should be deposited by the route agent in the post office at or nearest the point at which they are received, where the postmaster will treat them in all respects as other unpaid letters.

Persons desirous to send their letters by steamboats can most readily accomplish their object by inclosing such letters in the stamped envelopes used by the Department, inasmuch as letters so inclosed may be conveyed out of the mail without a violation of law, and need not be delivered to the postmaster on the arrival of the vessel.

ADVERTISING LETTERS.

Section 181 (chap. xlii) of the Regulations requires post offices to advertise letters as follows:

1. Once in six weeks when the gross receipts do not exceed \$500 per quarter.
2. Once a month when the receipts are over \$500, and not over \$7,500 per quarter.
3. Twice a month when the receipts are over \$7,500, and not over \$10,000 per quarter.
4. Once a week when the receipts exceed \$7,500 per quarter.

Containing unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of such advertisement, it follows that offices of the first class above named must make such returns every six weeks;

Those of the second class, every month;

Those of the third class, every month;

Those of the fourth class, every week.

Refused letters are not to be advertised, nor those which the postmaster expects will be immediately taken from the office.

Drop and box letters, circulars, free packets containing printed documents, speeches or other printed matter, are not to be advertised.

When authority for the publication of lists of foreign letters in a newspaper printed in a foreign language is deemed advisable, the postmaster must make a special application for the necessary order to publish in such paper.

When daily, semi-weekly, tri-weekly, or weekly papers are issued from the same office, the proprietor must not be allowed to aggregate the circulation of such papers, but the single circulation of each issue of the particular paper for which he claims the publication. Whether the paper is issued daily, tri-weekly, semi-weekly, or weekly, must be shown, and the advertisement inserted in the particular paper which has the largest circulation.

One cent only is allowed for advertising each letter, and the printer's receipt must state the number of letters, and the amount paid for advertising.

The whole amount paid for advertising must be charged on No. 10 of the account current.

The cost of advertising must be marked upon each letter advertised, and be collected with the postage.

DEAD LETTERS.

Letters which have been advertised, and remained unclaimed two months, are to be returned to the head Letter Office, excepting letters sent by mail to persons on board certain designated vessels, expected to arrive, and letters especially marked to be held a longer period.

Paid drop letters, not called for, should be held two months.

Postmasters are specially directed to advertise letters according to the standing Regulations of the Department, under section 181, chap. 13, and to return unclaimed letters regularly two months after the date of each advertisement.

Thus, offices of the smallest class will return every six weeks; those of the second class, once a month; those of the third class, twice a month; those of the fourth class, every week.

Letters of the following description are excepted from these instructions, and must be separately returned to the Dead Letter Office from all offices at least as often as once a week, viz:

1. Letters for foreign countries upon which prepayment is compulsory, and drop letters, with prepayment.
2. Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes.
3. Unpaid letters for foreign countries on which prepayment is required by the Department.
4. Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.
5. Letters misdirected (or directed to places where there are no post offices).
6. Refused letters, as such as cannot be delivered, (as when the parties addressed are known to be deceased or moved away).

Sections 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 303, and 312 of the standing Regulations are not hereafter to be regarded.

Section 134 is modified so as to limit the one-cent rate chargeable per ounce on books to distances under fifteen hundred miles, (instead of three thousand miles).

Writers of letters can have them returned, if recalled for within any given period, by indorsing such request with their address on the letters.

Postage is chargeable on all letters returned from the Dead Letter Office.

When a letter is refused, the word "refused" should be at once plainly written upon it, and the letter put with those to be returned at the end of the month.

If previous to the return of a dead letter the letter be broken by accident, or by having been delivered to the wrong person, the fact and circumstance must be noted upon it.

Every dead letter must bear on the sealed side of the stamp or post mark of the post office by which it was returned, and the date of its return to the Department.

Dead Registered Letters must be made up in a separate package, with a separate bill, giving the address and register number of each letter. This package is to be carefully tied up and sealed, and addressed to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, and sent to the Postmaster at Washington City, with return bill, in the same manner as other registered letters.

Domestic letters (drop letters excepted) held for postage, instead of being sent to the Department, are hereafter to be retained, and notice sent to the parties addressed. The answer to such notice must be prepaid, and a postage stamp of the proper amount inclosed, with which to prepay the "held letters."

This class of letters, when not written for, must not be in the office more than one month from the time of notification, but must be sent to the Dead Letter Office. The period may be shortened at discretion, when notices are sent short distances, and answers might be expected in a few days.

All letters held for postage should be post-marked on the day of their receipt, and boxed according to dates.

RECEIPTS.—Postmasters will not return unsealed circulars to the Dead Letter Office, but dispose of them the same as dead newspapers.

BIDDING FOR MAIL CONTRACTS, &c.

In bidding for mail contracts, bidders should first examine carefully the instructions accompanying the advertisement. Formerly a coach was preferred to a "star bid," although the former might be the highest, if the route was a late decision, the reverse is the case, and a coach or horse bid is not considered legal.

The words "with due celerity, certainty, and security," inserted to indicate the time of conveyance will constitute a "star bid." Routes are set on for four years, the year being divided into four sections for that purpose. The Contract Office, on application, furnishes blanks for bids for express.

The authority to establish post routes is not vested in the Postmaster-General, but in Congress, and no route should be established, or any other change in the routes already established, he can only place mail service on such routes as have been declared post routes by act of Congress. All railroads, plank roads, canals, navigable rivers, and other waters, are, however, post-roads by law; and also the road from the nearest post office on an established route to the coast-house of any county which may be otherwise without a mail.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULES.

If a change of a schedule is desired, application should be made to the Contract Office, supported by the postmasters at the ends of the route. The contract running-time cannot be increased.

ATTENTION TO THE MANNER OF CARRYING THE MAILS.

Every postmaster will consider himself the agent of the Department in regard to its affairs in his immediate vicinity, so far as to carefully observe, and promptly report to it, every thing tending to affect its interests, efficiency, and utility.

It is especially expected that he will keep a vigilant eye upon the manner in which the mails are carried to and from his office. This is among the most important of his duties.

He will report promptly to the Inspection Office all irregularities of mail-carriers, in charge of the mail, and causes, when known.

Any case where the mail-carrier is not sworn, the fact is to be noted on the register.

Should a mail at any time fail to arrive at the end of a route, or at any intermediate post office, where the time of arrival is fixed within the time specified in the contract or schedule, it will be expected of every contractor immediately, by himself or agent, to send his excuse to the Inspection Office, setting forth, *particularly*, the cause of the failure; and if, after waiting a reasonable time, no specific and satisfactory excuse be received, the Chief Clerk is directed to present the case thus reported to the Postmaster-General for fine.

Any case where the mail-carrier is not sworn, should be immediately reported.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES.

These stamps and envelopes are furnished only to postmasters for sale. Postmasters who fail to supply themselves from the Department must purchase temporary supplies from the nearest offices for cash. Postmasters who purchase stamps or stamped envelopes from other postmasters, under the preceding regulation, are not required to render to the Department any account of such purchases and sales.

The envelopes are to be sold at the price stated in the receipt which is sent with them to each office.

A letter bearing a stamp cut or separated from a stamped envelope, cannot be sent through the mail as a private letter. Stamp cut or separated from stamped envelopes lose their legal value, and the use of such stamp, as well as the reuse of an ordinary postage stamp, will subject the offender to a fine of \$50.

If the cancelling of a stamp has been omitted on the mailing of the letter, packet, or parcel, or if the cancellation be incomplete, the postmaster at the office of delivery will effectually cancel it, and forward with the delinquent postmaster to the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

Postage stamps and stamped envelopes should not be returned to the Department by a postmaster without special authority, and in such cases it is his duty to prove the act of mailing by a receipt or other thing in such letters, (not to exceed half an ounce in weight), and will not entitle him to credit, in case the package should be lost. (See section 404 of the Regulations of 1853.)

BLANKS, WRAPPING-PAPER, TWINE, AND RATING

Post blanks will be furnished to postmasters, on their written requisitions, from the following agencies: Postmasters in the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida, will apply to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, Washington, D. C.

Postmasters in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California, Oregon, and Washington, will apply to the "Blank Agent at New York, N. Y."

Postmasters in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, will apply to the "Blank Agent at Cincinnati, Ohio."

When the postage collected at an office amounts to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on the stamps of the route. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$12 50 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping-paper, sealing-wax, and twine, at the above agencies.

Applications for blank registers of the arrival and departure of the mails must be made direct to the "Inspection Office." For general post office blanks, and for special instructions, to the First Assistant Postmaster-General.

All postmasters whose compensation is less than \$12 50 per quarter, can purchase a reasonable quantity of wrapping-paper, sealing-wax, and twine: Provided, the net proceeds of the office exceed twenty dollars per quarter.

Post offices, the gross receipts of which are over \$1,000 per annum, will be furnished with circular marking and rating stamps of class No. 1; less than \$1,000 and over \$500, with stamps of class No. 2; less than \$500, with stamps of class No. 3; and exchange post offices with stamps of class No. 4. Applications for these stamps should be made to the Appointment Office.

When the gross receipts of an office are less than \$100 per annum, if they use rating stamps, must obtain the same at their own expense. Letter balances, upon the like application, are furnished to offices which collect in postage \$75 a year.

SAVES FOR POST OFFICES.

Are allowed by the Department only in special cases, and never to any office where there are no suitable communications. Application to be made to the Appointment Office.

PREPARATION OF LETTERS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

In preparing letters to foreign countries, great care should be taken in accordance with the regulations indicated on the letter. (See 4th page of this sheet.) Also in regard to the weight. Where a letter weighs over an ounce, for Great Britain, the German States, etc., the postage is to be paid in advance, (in an open mail), every fraction of an ounce, after the first ounce, counts a full ounce. This does not appear to be understood by a great many postmasters and correspondents, as evidenced by the large number of letters, insufficiently paid, averaging for every steamer from 75 to 125 letters, about two-thirds of which, on examination, are found to be short by one rate, the deficiency being made up by the balance of the full ounce. Thus, a letter to Great Britain, weighing 43 ounces, should be paid \$2.40, being chargeable as five ounces, or ten rates; but if \$2.16 (nine rates only) are paid, owing to an omission to count the fraction of an ounce, the letter will be lost, and the \$2.16 is lost to the writer of the letter. These letters are treated as wholly unpaid, and the amount paid, lost to the sender.

Letters to foreign countries, where prepayment of postage is compulsory, when insufficiently paid, are sent to the Dead Letter Office to be opened and returned to the writers, and are thereby delayed one or two days, and no doubt in many cases causing serious loss and annoyance to the writers.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

Postmasters should always bear in mind that all registered letters, when fully paid, are to be returned to their destination, and that they cannot be sent otherwise.

Upon the receipt of a letter which is registered and mailed, the postmaster should make out his receipt, and being ready to enter on both the original and duplicate bills, the date, rate of postage, registry fee, number, address, and if for distribution, the name of the office to which the letter is to be finally sent. He should place the letter with the original bill, in a wrapper properly addressed to the office, and enclose it in the package of ordinary unregistered letters. In the post mail thereafter, he should enclose the duplicate bill in a sealed envelope to the postmaster at the office to which the letter will be sent, signed and returned to him. This return bill should be retained in the office, and not sent to Washington with the quarterly returns, as is often the case.

The bill relating to a registered letter, when received, it should be entered upon the account of registered letters received, and delivered to the party addressed upon his or her receipt, which receipt should also be kept.

Postage stamps and stamped envelopes are furnished postmasters, upon their requisition on the Third Assistant Postmaster-General. An order is sent to the stamp agent at New York, and the package is deposited in the New York post office to be registered and mailed. Therefore, postmasters, upon the receipt at their offices of postage stamps and stamped envelopes, should carefully read the caption of the bills which accompany them, by which they will see that the "Return Registered Stamp or Envelope Bill" must be sent to the New York post office, and not to the stamp agent nor "Third Assistant Postmaster-General," which is often done.

The bills relating to the registration should not be confounded with the bills or receipts sent to be signed and forwarded to the Department.

Care should also be taken to return the bills immediately, properly signed, etc., because the stamps or envelopes are not received, the fact will then be known to the Department, without delay.

ACCOUNTS AND RETURNS OF POSTMASTERS.

We have no room for full instructions on this subject, but in order to enable postmasters to more conveniently examine carefully the directions in Chapters XIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII, and XXIV of the Book of Regulations, as well as the pamphlet of Instructions, issued May 1, 1861, at pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

ROUTE AGENTS.

On railroad and steambot routes it is the duty of route agents—1st. To receive letters written after the mail has been closed, and letters already mailed, to mail and post bill said letters, and direct them to the proper office for delivery or distribution, and to make report of all such letters. 2d. To assort the mail for the several offices, being furnished with the key to the iron lock for that purpose. 3d. To attend to delivery and reception of mail bags. 4th. To report to the Inspection Office all irregularities of service on the route, especially every instance in which the time of arrival is fixed within the time specified, with the causes of such failure, which, if not known, must be ascertained by inquiry.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is the duty of the postmaster who is in office at the commencement of a quarter, then to collect the newspaper postage quarterly in advance, if unpaid; and if there are subscribers who wish to pay in advance, he is by law obliged to receive it; but he cannot lawfully demand more than one quarter's pay in advance. The postmaster who collects the postage is entitled to all the commissions thereon, although he may be immediately superseded by an appointee of his successor; but he should leave in the office a list of such as have paid in advance.

This right extends to a postmaster, even if he knows he is about retiring from office. In fact, he is obliged by law to receive the postage quarterly in advance, the official quarter commencing July 1, —Oct. 1, —Jan. 1, —April 1. When subscribers commence in the middle, or at any other irregular time in the quarter, the entire current quarter must be for, or in advance, in full, and not the beginning of the ensuing regular quarter.

In Article 13 of the Quarterly Account Current, every postmaster will credit himself with the amount of postage on unpaid letters, if any, remaining in his office at the end of the quarter, the same as before the postage thereon in his quarterly return, but without outside a list of such letters. The regulations in chapter XXI, (1853), are unchanged, except so far as concerns allowances of free letters. No compensation is now made for the delivery of free letters or for the transmission of newspapers, (see Instructions of May 1, 1861, Art. 7, page 4.)

If a person puts a one-cent stamp only on a letter to be mailed, the fair inference is that the failure to prepay the postage in full is intentional, and the letter should be treated as if wholly unpaid. Where more than one cent is paid, and not the full postage, directions in sec. 108, chapter ix, must be followed literally.

The law authorizing postmasters whose commissions do not exceed \$200 a year, to frank their private letters, allows them to inclose money or other things in such letters, (not to exceed half an ounce in weight), on their own private account, but not for editors or other persons.

The laws of Congress do not extend any protection to correspondents before their letters are placed in the hands of the carrier, or in the custody of a postmaster or other agent of the Department authorized to receive them, or in some legal depository provided by the P. M. General, nor after such letters have been delivered to the parties to whom they are addressed, or their authorized agents. The statutes which provide for the punishment of persons found guilty of stealing or violating letters before they are placed in the post office, or after they are delivered therefrom.

Letters sent for the mails are considered to be the property of a postmaster when placed in any depository furnished or provided by him for their reception, and not otherwise.

A postmaster should not charge commissions on unpaid letters to be "forwarded," but should charge the postage thereon in his quarterly return, and the postmaster may frank a letter to Canada the same as to any point in the United States; but it is optional for the Canadian P. O. Department to deliver such letter free, or charge full postage on it, at its pleasure.

If a letter, franked by a person entitled to the franking privilege, comes from the mailing office charged with postage, the postmaster at the office of delivery, on being satisfied that the charge is erroneous, may correct the error, and deliver the letter free.

A newspaper is not put up so that it cannot be examined without breaking the wrapper, it should be charged with letter postage by weight.

Cents are not a legal tender for postage; but postmasters may, in a spirit of accommodation, receive them when offered. In accounting with the Department, however, they cannot pay them out.

All dead letters with inclosures of the slightest value, down to a postage stamp, are returned to the writers when their names and post offices appear; but this is frequently neglected.

Dead letter money may at any time be reclaimed on application.

Letters sent to dead letter office for want of postage or proper direction, are generally examined and returned to the writers, whether containing inclosures or not. The great mass of other dead letters are not now read, but destroyed, because there is not sufficient clerical force assigned for their examination; however, the intention of the Department to provide as soon as possible for the return of a much larger number of dead letters, without inclosures, than at present.

A number of medicines are not expressly named as being poisonous, and are sold in the form of a palatable matter; but if done up so as not to endanger the mails, they may be sent at letter rates.

Under ordinary circumstances a parent, as the natural guardian, has the right to control the correspondence of minor children; but when questions of this kind arise, it is best to report all the facts to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, and ask advice for each case.

Newspapers and periodicals, regularly mailed to bona fide subscribers, are not "transient printed matters" and may, therefore, be sent by mail, and with the same privileges, as if they were mailed to such subscribers directly from the office of publication; provided, the agent makes and files in the mailing office a statement, signed by him, showing the name of the papers or periodicals which he thus mails, the offices, respectively to which they are directed, and the number of such subscribers to each, with the date, however, they cannot pay them out.

Postmasters are required to keep a supply of postage stamps for sale, and to see that letters are duly prepaid by stamps; but it is not intended to throw upon the writer the burden of affixing the stamps upon letters when the writer might, without inconvenience, have done it himself.

A person having the franking privilege can not lend his frank to be sent away or to be used by others except private correspondence, and letters so sent, if improperly franked, must be treated like other unpaid letters held for postage.

No person can be appointed postmaster who cannot legally execute an official bond, and he must be an actual resident of the city or town wherein the office is situated or within the delivery of the office.

Married women or minors cannot be postmasters.

A postmaster may hold any office under a State government, such as Justice of the Peace, or member of the Legislature, provided there is no law of his State to the contrary.

No person can be employed either as clerk in a post office or as mail carrier, less than sixteen years old.

Every postmaster should have at least one sworn assistant, ready to take charge of the office in case of necessity.

No person, not duly sworn, should be allowed to handle the mails.

No postmaster, assistant postmaster or clerk in a post office can hold a mail contract, or be concerned in carrying the mail.

The securities of a postmaster, in the event of his death, or vacancy from other cause, are responsible for the proper management of the office till a successor is appointed and qualified.

In addressing the Department, care should be used to avoid writing upon more than one subject in the same letter. Different subjects go to different offices, as above stated.

Copies of papers on file cannot be furnished to applicants unless on certificate of counsel that the same are required in a suit commenced, and actually pending in a court of record.

Treasury Notes.—Postmasters are to receive treasury notes in payment of postage, but it is not expected that they will put themselves to inconvenience by returning specie in any considerable amounts by way of making change.

Weekly newspapers only are entitled to go free in the mail to subscribers within the county where published.

When a package of newspapers or periodicals comes to one address for a club, the person so addressed is held for the postage; nor is it the duty of the postmaster to collect the postage from the individual members of the club. It must be paid in advance for at least a quarter, on the package.

TIME OCCUPIED IN THE TRANSMISSION OF LETTERS FROM DISTANT POINTS TO NEW YORK CITY.

From	Days	Form	Days
Alexandria, Va.	1	Montreal, Can.	2
Bangor, N. Y.	1		
Buffalo, N. Y.	1		
Concord, N. H.	1	Nehaska	5 to 7
		New Mexico	20
Chicago, Ill.	2	Portland, Me.	1
		Quebec, Can.	2
Cincinnati, Ohio	2		
California, overland	25 to 26		
Do By Steamers via Panama	24 to 25		
Detroit, Mich.	2	St. Louis, Mo.	2 to 3
Dubuque, Iowa	3	St. Paul, Minn.	1 to 8
		Toledo, Ohio	2
Indianapolis, Ind.	2	Washington, D. C.	1
		Wilmington, Del.	1
Kansas	7 to 8		
Little Rock, Ark.	8	Oregon	1
Louisville, Ky.	2	Wash. Terr.	3 to 40
Manchester, N. H.	1	Utah	1
Manitowick, Wis.	2		

TIME OF CLOSING MAILS AT THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

NORTH.—5 A. M., and 3:30 P. M., by way of Hudson River and Central Railroad to Buffalo and Canada.

SOUTH.—5 A. M., and 4:30 P. M. and 10:30 P. M.

EAST.—5 A. M., 3 P. M., 5:30 P. M., (Railroad,) and 3 P. M., (Fall River Steamboat.)

WEST.—5 A. M., and 3:30 P. M., by Erie Railroad, via Dunkirk, Cincinnati, &c.

MAILS ARE DUE AT NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

NORTH.—Due 12:30 A. M.; and 10 P. M.

SOUTH.—Due 4:30 A. M.; 1:30 P. M.; 6:30 P. M. and 10:30 P. M.

EAST.—Due (Steamboat,) 7 A. M.; Railroad (way mail,) 10:45 A. M. (Boston Express,) 6:30 A. M., 5:30 P. M., and 12 Midnight.

WEST.—Due 12 M.; and 10:30 P. M.

DATES OF DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS OF MAILS AT LONDON.

Countries	When Departed	When Arrive
Africa W. coast of 23d each month		10th each month
Australia		
via Marseille 26th	27	1st
Southampton 30th	31	5th
Brazil	9th	25 5th
Buenos Ayres	9th	40 5th
China		
via Marseille 10th & 26th	40	13th and 27th
Southampton 4th & 20th	45	15th and 19th
India		
via Marseille 14th, 16th, 26th, 30th	4h, 13h, 18h, 27h	
Southampton 4th, 12th, 20th, 27th	38	2d, 10h, 18h, 25h

UNITED STATES EXCHANGE OFFICES FOR FOREIGN MAILS.

New York is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian, Belgian, Bremen and Hamburg Mails.

Boston is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian and Belgian Mails.

Philadelphia is an office of Exchange for British and French Mails.

San Francisco, is an office of Exchange for British Mails only.

Portland, Detroit, and Chicago, are offices of Exchange for British, Prussian and French Mails.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL LIFE INS. CO.

Boston, Mass.—R. F. STEVENS, Secretary.

WILLARD PHILLIPS, President.

Nearly TWO MILLION DOLLARS WELL INVESTED to meet losses. Nearly a MILLION paid to widows, orphans, and creditors of the insured. Almost a MILLION in dividends to Policy Holders. SEVENTEEN years of uniform prosperity. Last dividend 39 cent. (\$336,000), paid in cash.

Economy, care in its risks, and prudent investments characterize this company. Its principal principle insures at the lowest possible rates all over and above the actual cost being returned in dividends; the business of the company being, as it were, closed every five years, and the surplus funds divided *pro rata* to all the insured. Documents of an interesting character, and showing the benefits of the purely mutual plan of life insurance, forwarded gratis, by mail or otherwise, upon application at the Branch Office, to

JOHN HOPPER,

Agent and Attorney for the Company, Metropolitan Bank Building, 110 Broadway, New York City.

Or to the Secretary, at Boston.

HORATIO KING,

No. 510 H. BETWEEN 7TH AND 8TH STREETS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will attend to business before any of the Executive Departments. To those having business to transact at the Post Office, Army and Navy Departments, or any other branch of Government, his services may be available. He will attend to procuring Patents, Bounty Land Warrants, etc. to the correct and prompt settlement of the accounts of Postmasters, Mail Army, Navy, and other Government Contractors—to applications for the establishment or change of mail routes, &c.

Charges reasonable.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Consulting Counsel, Washington, October, 1861.

Mr. Horatio C. King will be applied to concerning all matters connected with the above Agency, at his office, No. 48 Wall street, New York.

MRS. HANKINS' FAMILY PAPER,

75 CENTS A YEAR. ONLY 38 CENTS TO POSTMASTERS. Sample copies sent free.

The Cheapest FASHION PICTORIAL and most perfect FAMILY PAPER in the world, uniting all the elegances of refinement and beauty with the plain utilities of life.

ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS; PICTURES OF ROMANCE and PICTORIAL WONDERS; also FASHION PLATES and ORNAMENTAL DESIGNS.

Home Literature, Tales and Biographies, Common Sense, Family Papers, Natural History, Rights for Living, Pure Morality, Needle Work, Prudent Economy, Admonition to Mothers, Dress Making, Hints to Young Ladies, Practical Arithmetic, Puzzles and Enigmas, Ornamental Work, Travels and Adventures, Family Recipes, Science and Philosophy, Hints to the Sick, Remarkable Children, Original Stories, Notes on Fashions, Choice Poetry, General Information, Voyages and Travels, Domestic Stories, Select Literary Gems, How to Cook Well, Hints to Manufacturers, How to Live Well, Hints to Merchants, How to Behave, Hints to Farmers, Free play for Parents, Advice to Doctors, Examples for Children, Advice to Lawyers, Wise Sayings, Hints to Young Men, Original Letters, Lectures for Girls, Amuseur Gardening, Fads for Everybody, Inventions and Discoveries, &c., &c., &c. Lessons for Young Folks, &c., &c., &c.

POSTMASTERS WANTED

Everywhere, to act as AGENTS. I give them nearly ONE HALF the money they collect, and one copy of the PAPER FREE.

M. GAUNTT, Publisher, 40 Walker street, New York.

To Postmasters.

Address Box 4730, New York Post Office, for Circular, giving description, prices, &c., of articles useful to Postmasters.

POST OFFICE RATING STAMPS.

E. S. Zevilly, Cumberland, Maryland, delivers a good office Stamp, with date changes, for One Dollar. Also other stamps. His stamps have been thoroughly tested for a number of years, and much approved.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, APRIL, 1862.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

October 25, 1861.
DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its usefulness, and the range of its circulation.
M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Esq.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters-General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time, with a copy of the publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

POSTMASTER GENERAL,

November 21st, 1861.
FOREIGN POSTAGE TABLE.—The table of postage rates on foreign letters and printed matter, which appears on the 3d page of this paper, is revised and corrected monthly, and may be relied on as an official correct. The table for the current month should always be consulted, as important changes are occasionally required.

What is found in the columns of the MAIL, inserted as a foreign letter and printed matter, which appears on the 3d page of this paper, is revised and corrected monthly, and may be relied on as an official correct. The table for the current month should always be consulted, as important changes are occasionally required.

[OFFICIAL.]

POSTMASTERS who make up packages for Members of Congress direct, under the order of the 3d December, 1861, and mail them direct to Washington, should write distinctly on each package "Congress," embracing therein only matter for Senators and Representatives. This will enable any distributing office through which they may pass to place them without delay in a "Congress" bag.

JOHN A. KANSON,

First Ass't P. M. General.
[We will take the liberty of adding to this important order, a word of explanation. It is not intended to apply to distributing offices, as was the order of 23 December. The instructions are only applicable to offices which do not bag to Washington, and yet are in the practice of making up direct packages of letters for that city. Unless Congress letters are put up separately, and marked as such on the outside wrapper, the distributing offices have no means of curing the evil, and the packages are sent in the ordinary Washington pouches, instead of Congress bags, which are delivered to the Congressional Messenger, and do not go into the Washington office at all—thus saving the time necessarily required to select out this class of letters at the Washington post office.—En. MAIL.]

BLANK AGENCY CHANGED.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT }
15th March, 1862 }
The Postmaster-General has ordered the Blank Agency at Cincinnati, Ohio, to be transferred to Buffalo, N. Y. on the first of April next.
All postmasters now supplied with blanks from Cincinnati, will, after that date, send their orders to the "Blank Agent, Buffalo, N. Y.," where the printing is executed under contract, and from whence they will be supplied.

JOHN A. KANSON,

First Ass't P. M. General.

Postmaster General Blair has issued the following notice to the postmasters of the United States:

"The Secretary of War now regulates the transmission of information by telegraph affecting the conduct of the war, in order to prevent the communication of such information to the rebels. It is also thought necessary by the Secretary to put restrictions on the publication of facts of this character, however derived, and the aid of this Department is requested for this purpose. You will therefore notify publishers not to publish any fact that has been excluded from the telegraph, and that a disregard of this order will subject the paper to be excluded from the mails."

CHINA AND INDIA MAILS.—By the aid of Mr. Geo. A. Klinger, of the foreign department in the New York post office, we have prepared for permanent use an important table in reference to the China, India, Australia, etc., mails to and from London—showing the routes of transmission and comparative time required, and dates of departure from and arrival at London. Also a progressive schedule of postage rates on letters from the United States to the above places by the Marseilles route.

In paying postage upon this class of letters, this table should always be consulted when fractional rates occur, as the exact amount required will then be found.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' LETTERS.—Letters from Soldiers, Sailors and Marines may be mailed without prepayment, if so endorsed and certified on their face—the postage to be collected at the office of delivery. A letter from a Soldier must bear the certificate, "Soldier's Letter," signed by the Major, acting Major, or any other field or staff officer of his regiment, who must give the number of the regiment and State to which it belongs. A letter from a Sailor or Marine must bear the certificate, "Naval Letter," signed by a Commander or Lieutenant on board the vessel, giving the name of the vessel.

All letters addressed to soldiers, sailors, or marines must be prepaid, and commissioned officers, both of the army and navy, are required to prepay the postage on their letters as before.

Prepaid letters to soldiers may be "forwarded," from point to point, as the location of their regiments may be changed, without extra charge.

The War Envelopes.

The rage for envelopes decorated with patriotic or other embellishments, seems to be subsiding. Letters travel, without the protection of a flag, and portraits of distinguished personages cease to occupy the corner opposite to the physiognomy of Washington. Curious collectors have accumulated a great variety of specimens of these illustrated envelopes, and the time will doubtless come when such collections will be examined with the utmost interest by antiquaries, desirous of getting a glimpse of the feelings and humors of our times, as they were displayed during the great civil war of the Western continent. What a remarkable jumble of patriotism, sentiment, humor, and animosity does such a collection present! Old letters are valued, not only for the memory of their virtues, but often for the biographical and historical matter which they contain. And even envelopes, their dry husks, which enclosed a precious kernel, become themselves fresh with vitality when they bear upon their faces marks of the feelings of a great nation. The modern writers of history, with more comprehensive views than many of their predecessors, do not regard the life of a nation as consisting entirely in the intrigues of its rulers and their struggles for power, but consider the doings of the people in their various relations, domestic, commercial, and the like, as of equal importance to the completeness of the record.

Few civilized nations are now to be found, whose rulers can say, with Louis XIV., "L'Etat c'est moi," ("I am the State"), ignoring the existence of the people, except for taxation or conscription. The historian now-a-days does not disdain to search among collections of old street-balls, pamphlets, and whatever ephemeral productions reflect "the form and pressure of the time" in which they originated; for such little papers often shed a light upon the inner life of the people which is elsewhere sought in vain. Least of all will the historian of a Republic fully discharge his duty if he fails to show what the people felt, and thought, and did, as well as what their rulers accomplished. This would be representing the play of Hamlet with the part of Hamlet omitted. And the Macaulay of our great struggle, resorting to sources of information like those which we have mentioned, will not overlook these decorated envelopes, as throwing some subordinate light upon the history of the time. They would hardly be taken as a basis for any disquisition on the state of the fine arts, for our historian would find in them more patriotic feeling than artistic merit, and a greater display of "spunk" than of skill in execution. But the hastily drawn design and the rude wood-cut may serve as well to show the bent of the people's thoughts as the most elaborate work of art. Like straws, they indicate the direction, and, in some degree, the force of the contending currents which now are dashing so fiercely against one another.

This eruption of red, white, and blue—of eagles and flag-bearing females—of youths variously arrayed and allegorical figures of various kinds—is rapidly fading away. But not to the historian alone will these evanescent traces of a nation's fever-fit be matters of interest. Many a survivor of the conflict, looking back through years of peace to the tremendous struggle which he has witnessed, will feel a reviving of the old patriotic glow as he re-peruses the lines traced by some loved one—a son or a brother—who lies buried on the battle-field. The old letter—the envelope, with its faded adornments—recall vividly the days of trial, the anxious expectation, the "hope deferred" which "maketh the heart sick," and that hope crushed by the dread certainty that the last message of affection from the young patriot had been received.

The N. Y. Post Office Extension.

The contract for the extension of the New York post office has been awarded, and the work, we understand, will now be carried on with all due dispatch, and will probably be completed by the 1st of June—the workmen having already removed the iron railing, which formerly enclosed the building on the Nassau and Cedar-street sides. The space to be covered by the proposed extension was formerly used as the cemetery of the Old Dutch Church, and within its vaults moldered the bones of the old burghers of New Amsterdam, who were wont to worship within the walls of the venerable edifice. Now, instead of the sonorous voice of the good old Dominie, expounding, in the purest Low Dutch, some knotty point of doctrine, there is heard the incessant bustle attendant upon the movements of the busy clerks, the clatter of the arriving and departing mail-wagons, the sharp "tap-tap" of the swift-handed "stamper's," and the indefinable shuffling sounds incident to the handling of the letters, papers, and other mail matter passing through the post-office of a great commercial city.

Long since, the ashes of these worthies were removed by their descendants from within the shadow of the grey old building, and now, "far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife," repose in the shade of Greenwood, there to await, undisturbed, the correction of the just. The space occupied by them, it is, however, has, until a very recent period, remained untouched; but now even this must yield to the demands of the community for an increase of their postal facilities, and over the sacred ground utilitarian and irreverent Young New York takes a diagonal "cut across lots" on his way to and from the post-office.

But though there are many who will regret the disappearance of the old churchyard, as another of the few remaining links which bound the present to the older time, their sighs are unheard amid the general satisfaction with which the public hail the prospect of the extension of the present confined limits of the post-office.

The bill providing for a Money Order system, has been defeated in the U. S. Senate.

The Pre-paying System.

We have received several communications urging a change in the law, so that all unpaid domestic letters could be sent forward, and double postage rates collected on delivery. The claim is, that the revenues of the Department would be materially increased, while careless correspondents would be taught a lesson in many cases, by the neglect of business matters to which their unpaid letters referred, etc.

Two important objects are no doubt gained by compulsory pre-payment by stamps. The Department gets pay for transporting all letters put into the post-office, which can be finally delivered, whereas if pre-payment were optional, thousands of letters would be deposited, without much thought or care as to whether they were delivered or not. Another point gained is in simplifying the official accounts, and at the same time avoiding all unnecessary facilities for wronging the Department which an accumulation of funds in the hands of postmasters might furnish, and which have formerly been taken advantage of in too many cases.

One of the strongest arguments against optional pre-payment is the opportunity it would afford to dishonest private post-office messengers, who could withhold the money or stamps given them with which to prepay, and thus cause correspondence to go forward unpaid. Even now, this dodge is often resorted to with a certain class of foreign letters, which, by treaty, can go paid or unpaid.

At all events, the present experiment of compulsory pre-payment should be thoroughly tried.

Nashville Post Office.

Special Agent A. H. MARKLAND, Esq., who was sent by the Postmaster General, to take charge of the Nashville post office, has selected as postmaster for that city, JONN SELLYETT who has been appointed by the President. By consent of the Department, we give below an extract from a very interesting official letter recently received from Mr. MARKLAND:

"At my request, Gen. BURELL caused to be detailed a sufficient number of officers and men from the army, to properly distribute and forward the mails. They are only effective as laboring men, having but little knowledge of post office business. Mr. LINDSEY, whom I have put in temporary charge, is a practical business man, and has thus far rendered me valuable assistance. You can well imagine the annoyance of keeping a post office with nothing to keep it with. I have done the very best I could, under the circumstances, and have the assurance from the military authorities that I have exceeded their expectations.

I have ascertained that on the night before the final and speedy flight of the rebels from this city, this office was occupied by the rebel Major General FLOYD, which will fully account for the abstraction of all the property belonging to the U. S. government. There was nothing left in the office but empty pigeon holes and the stoves, which, I suppose, were too hot to be removed."

[We wonder the old fellow didn't take along the red-hot stoves. He has done decidedly cooler things than that would have been.—En. MAIL.]

OPENING LETTERS.—The manner of opening letters received through the post-office is of more importance than most correspondents imagine. Some hastily tear off half the envelope and throw it upon the ground or into the fire, or otherwise so mutilate it as to render it impossible to make out the postmark, the full address, or the original state of the seal, which, in cases of alleged illegal opening, may furnish essential aid in conducting subsequent investigations.

In the opening process, in respect to all classes of correspondence, we like the plan, already adopted to some extent, of cutting the envelope by running a knife along its upper edge, thus leaving the seal in its original condition.

This precaution may prove useless in a large majority of cases, but experience has shown that in many instances it has led to important results, by throwing light on transactions which otherwise would have been permanently involved in mystery.

California Letters.

The following is the number of letters received at New York Post Office, by steamers from California, commencing May 27th, 1849, and ending 30th June, 1861, at which time the mail service by steamers was discontinued, and that by the overland route commenced:

DATE	LET. REC'D.
May 27th, 1849 to June 30th, 1850	172,360
Year ending " " 1851	257,042
" " " " 1852	524,102
" " " " 1853	937,683
" " " " 1854	860,361
" " " " 1855	712,930
" " " " 1856	571,254
" " " " 1857	564,850
" " " " 1858	505,240
" " " " 1859	501,625
" " " " 1860	332,056
" " " " 1861	251,575
Total,	6,221,211

MAILS FOR CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—The editor of this paper, and the postmaster of New York, are in the daily receipt of letters, asking how the mails are sent to California, etc., how often it is despatched, the dates of the departure of steamers, etc., etc. It seems that, notwithstanding the overland mail has been in operation since last June, and Congress has expressly forbidden the transmission of the above mails otherwise than across the continent, people generally, and even New York merchants engaged in the California trade, suppose that their letters are still sent by steamer. To all such we wish to state, in the plainest terms, that the mails to the Pacific States are sent overland, that they are despatched twice each day from the New York office, and six times a week from St. Joseph, Mo.

A Panic in the Apple Market.

All careful students of the world's history will admit the truth of the statement that every step in the march of improvement involves the destruction of some minor interest. The inexorable law of compensation seems to decree that all progress must be attended with more or less of suffering; and in proportion to the benefits secured to the world at large by its advancing strides, a certain amount of individual loss and inconvenience, experience teaches us, must be sustained by some one. What a revolution was wrought by the introduction of steam—the throes which attended the birth of the giant convulsed the whole industrial world, overturned hundreds of handicrafts upon which centred the interests of countless thousands: the humble hand-loom ceased its feeble clatter, awed by the din of the swift spindles of Manchester and Lowell; the slow sailing packet yielded the path of the sea to the wind-defying ocean steamer, and the rattling stage-coach gave place to the smooth-gliding car, while its good steeds tumbled at the fire-fed monster as he rushed past them shrieking that their occupation was gone forever.

The improvement now in the progress in the New-York post office gives one more instance of the truth of this theory. For years past, in fact, ever since the office has been established in its present locality, a thriving colony of dealers in apples, nuts, oranges, candies, soda water, and the other small luxuries in which the down town population of merchants and clerks are wont to indulge, has flourished around the iron railing enclosing the building. Holding their "claims" by the simple tenure of "squatter sovereignty," paying nothing for their privileges, and not having the fear of the landlord before their eyes, they have driven a brisk and profitable trade. Some of them, indeed, have accumulated gains which may be counted by thousands, and which it would not be exaggerating to dignify as fortunes. One—a lively Frenchman, who occupied a stand on the Liberty street corner—has, we are informed, accumulated, in a few years, quite a snug competency, we are happy to state, like a good husband, lately rejected the heart of Madame his wife with a present of a set of furs costing over \$100, while many others of this little community have been quite as fortunate—at least two of them being holders of considerable real estate. They formed, in fact, the very aristocracy of the retail apple and candy trade. There was a certain well-to-do and independent air which characterized them in all their business transactions, which showed that they held the dignity of their position in no light estimation, and they took pride in maintaining it by keeping for sale the best articles in their line, and by an inflexible adherence to the "one price and no abatement" system—leaving to the lower order of hucksters the ignoble chaffing and bargaining which they felt to be unworthy of themselves. It is not to be denied, however, that strife and heart-burning were not entirely unknown among them—sharp disputes, fierce and bitter contests, would arise in regard to the question of being—epithets the reverse of complimentary, and even blows, were sometimes freely exchanged between the contestants. But the final settlement of the matter was usually referred to "Misther Clark," long known as "one having authority" in and about the New-York Post Office, who invariably awarded strict and impartial justice to all, and from whose decision there was no appeal.

It must be allowed that these establishments were productive of no small inconvenience to the public on account of their encroachments upon the already narrow space allotted to pedestrians by the Nassau street walk; and more than once has complaint been made against them on this ground. We have frequently seen poor Fowler, while he was postmaster, sally forth in wrath, fully determined upon serving each and all of the intruders with a summary notice to quit; but his kind heart and benevolent nature were unable to withstand the appeals which were made to them by the offending squatters, and he usually concluded these periodical outbursts by purchasing his hands full of peaches or apples, and retiring to his private office to discuss them, laden also with the morsels of those whom he had intended to destroy.

But the evil day, so often postponed, has come at last, and the place which once knew the apple stand folk, know them no more forever. The fat went forth, and in a single day they did literally "fold their tents, like the Arabs, and as silently steal away."

The workmen began to remove the railing, and soon the luckless fruit merchants, not that their room, under the circumstances, was preferable to their company, sadly took their reluctant leave of the rich soil from which they had for so many years reaped so profitable a harvest, and departed to "fresh fields and pastures new," with what degree of resignation each was able to muster for the occasion. We will hope that the gentlemen may not be the means of depriving them altogether of their means of support, but that in some other of their busy haunts of men they may again realize profits large enough to console them for the loss of those which the increasing postal business of the city demanded the sacrifice.

Amid this general *heirra*, however, we must notice one exception. The newspaper man, whose establishment has so long been located on the south side of the Nassau street main entrance, still remains at his post, undismayed, apparently, at the surrounding desolation, his shrill countenance betraying no apprehension on his part of sharing the fate of his late companions. By what means he has been able to retain his position amid the universal wreck, we cannot say. Probably, the fact that the convenience of the public is really promoted by his non-removal has had its influence. But, at any rate, there he remains, evidently with no present intention of leaving. And in view of the fact that for the last eighteen years he has carried on his business beneath the shadow of the post office walls, (having followed its removal from the Park Row side to its present locality,) we suppose he has come to consider himself as having established a prescriptive right to be included among its fixtures.

The departure of the vendors of penny ice-creams and lemonades will be an inconvenience severely felt by the juvenile frequenters of the post office during the approaching warm weather; but it is likely that their pockets and digestive organs will reap substantial benefits from the removal of the temptation to indulge in those luxuries. On the whole, we think we may congratulate all concerned, (except the ejected parties,) on the removal of a nuisance, which was daily growing less tolerable, and which, we hope, will not again be suffered to establish itself under the shelter of the post office.

ABUSE OF THE MAILS.—But few persons are aware to what extent the mail and post-office facilities afforded by the government are employed to answer the ends of swindlers, and for immoral and vicious purposes. One of the latest dodges of these rogues is the publication of advertisements in country papers, signed by names somewhat similar to those of well-known and respectable New York firms, promising, on the receipt of a certain sum, to send by mail some article, such as a gold watch, books, etc. worth four times the amount. Of course the goods are never sent, and the luckless victims either never hear anything further of their investments, or the sharpers answer their complaints by a lying letter, asserting that the remittances never reached them. Other scoundrels make use of the post office for the circulation of obscene books and prints, and flood the country with their circulars, offering their filthy wares for sale. We understand that a quietus will ere long be given to the disgusting traffic of these latter gentry, by the passing of a law, authorising postmasters to exclude these corrupt publications from the mails.

ARREST OF A MAIL ROBBER.—Some money letters, mailed in Illinois, and addressed to parties in Saint Louis, having failed to reach their destination, Special Agent Noyes set out on a tour of investigation. Noyes soon found what was in quest of. A marked package of money arrived in Jerseyville, but there it suddenly disappeared. Mr. Noyes, who arrived in Jerseyville at the same time as the mail which brought this package, made inquiries of the Acting Postmaster, Aaron McGill, concerning it.

McGill flatly denied knowing anything whatever about it, and at the same time assumed the mask of injured innocence. Notwithstanding which, the special agent put him promptly under arrest, and proceeded to search for the missing package. He found it in the post office, hid under torn wrapping paper and other rubbish. McGill was taken to Springfield, where he was committed to jail in default of \$2,000 security.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following post offices, during the month of March—

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Alberville	Klanath	Cal.
Bacon	Rock	Cal.
Balls Bluff	Oldham	Iowa.
Barrettsville	St. Louis	Mo.
Bull City	Mississippi	Mo.
Bull City	Scott	Ill.
Bovine	Tyler	Ind.
Braceville	Grundy	Ind.
Broad Creek Neck	Talbot	Mo.
Brownsville	Stanton	Ky.
Cameronville	Anderson	Ill.
Centre Point	Carroll	Ill.
Conjoes	Conjoes	Col. Ter.
Cox's Mills	Gimer	Va.
Douglass	Holmes	Ohio.
Dravosburg	Kasson	Pa.
Eureka	Borbon	Ky.
Five Points	Gloucester	N. J.
Foot	Iowa	Iowa.
Fort Garland	Costella	Col. Ter.
Grant	Lake	Col. Ter.
Hanoverville	Northampton	Ill.
Hickory Hill	Miller	Mo.
Hovine's Station	Jefferson	Mo.
Huerfano	Huerfano	Col. Ter.
Houstonville	O'Brien	Ky.
Jackson Centre	Porter	Ind.
Jacksonville	Randolph	Mo.
Kant	Snyder	Pa.
Little's Mills	Tyler	Va.
Low's Station	Borbon	Ky.
Macbride	Mason	Va.
Millersburgh	Callaway	Mo.
Okhurst	Miller	Mo.
O'Brien	O'Brien	Iowa.
Ozark	Anderson	Mo.
Pappin	Douglas	Neb. T.
Pine Creek	Schuyler	N. Y.
Prince of Wales	Brookridge	Ky.
Sandifer's Store	Carroll	Mo.
San Luis	Costella	Col. Ter.
Sandy	Multonah	Oregon
Seven Stars	Adams	Pa.
Shepardville	Ward	Mo.
Smithville	Caroline	Mo.
South Carthage	Franklin	Mo.
Stanton	Montealm	Mich.
South Willow Creek	Lee	Ill.
Twigg	Carroll	Mo.
Upper Providence	Delaware	Va.
West Milton	Union	Mo.
Willow Spring	Cook	Ill.
White Cloud	Wayne	Mo.
Wolf Creek	Merade	Ky.

DISCONTINUED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Buchanan	Rice	Miss.
Burlington	Lake	Mo.
Caney	Morgan	Ky.
Cassidy's Mills	Rock	Ky.
Centre Point	Knox	Ill.
Christy's Fork	Morgan	Ky.
Churchville	Burlington	Iowa.
Indian Mills	Burlington	Ky.
Kensington	Philadelphia	Pa.
Morrisdown	Cass	Mo.
Nerime	Richland	Wis.
Nottingham	Cass	Mo.
Ovid	Cass	Mo.
Pevely	Jefferson	Mo.
Proctor	Barren	Ky.
Reindeer	Nodaway	Mo.
Tessental	Washington	Miss.
Wenona	Henry	Mo.
White Oak Hill	Fleming	Ky.
Wooliam	Gasconade	Mo.

NAMES CHANGED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	TO.
Bell Grove	Fleming	Ky.	Bell Grove Springs
Elroy	Macoupin	Ill.	Bufford
Half Moon	Eau Claire	Wis.	West Eau Claire
Kalgar's Valley	Sonoma	Cal.	Albany
Malden Creek	Berks	Pa.	Blandon
Marletta	San Joaquin	Cal.	Farmington
Middle Branch	Chisago	Minn.	Wyoning
Mallard's Grove	Bk Hawk	Iowa	Raymond
Old Hickory	Bradford	Pa.	Wells
Folk Precinct	Bremor	Iowa	Syracuse
St. Johnstown	Sness	Wis.	Greenwood
South Grove	Washington	Miss.	Greenfunction
2 Mile Prairie	Pulaski	Ind.	Star City
White Deer	Union	Pa.	Sifer

FEMALE POSTMASTERS APPOINTED.

Alburt, Rockingham County, N. H., Mrs. Mary A. Wiley.
Bluff Creek, Shannon County, Mo., Mrs. Sarah Wallace.
Columbia, Lancaster County, Pa., Mrs. Mary Jane Frey.
Eagle Mills, Doddridge County, Va., Mrs. Maria C. Reynolds.
Forest City, Tompkins County, N. Y., Mrs. Nance Gibbs.
Lowell, Garrard County, Ky., Miss Anne T. Spilman.
New Mount Pleasant, Jay County, Ind., Mrs. Catharine Dougherty.
Newport, Johnson County, Iowa, Mrs. Ruth Morse.
Shunk, Sullivan County, Pa., Mrs. Clara H. Will.
Twigg, Pleasant County, Va., Margaret Allen.
Whetmore Lake, Washenaw County, Mich., Mrs. Julia A. Owen.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, MAY 1862.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 28, 1861.

DEAR SIR:—I consider the U. S. MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Postmaster and Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Esq.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster-General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters-General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

November 21st, 1861.

FOREIGN POSTAGE TABLE.—The table of postage rates on foreign letters and printed matter, which appears on the 4th page of this paper, is revised and corrected monthly, and may be relied on as officially correct. The table for the current month should always be consulted, as important changes are occasionally required.

What is found in the columns of the MAIL, inserted as it is, only after consultation with the proper officers of the Department—especially on material questions—may safely be relied upon as conformable to the current rules, regulations, and constructions of existing laws.

[OFFICIAL.]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
12th April, 1862.

ORDERED, That the certificate "Soldier's Letter," when the letters are written by soldiers at detached posts or hospitals, may be signed by the Chaplain or Surgeon at such post or hospital, as well as by any field officer, and shall be equally recognized by Postmasters: postage to be collected on delivery.

JOHN A. KASSON,
First Ass't P. M. General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, May 1, 1862.

SIR:—In answer to the inquiry made in your letter of the 30th ultimo, respecting the propriety of recognizing United States postage stamps affixed to letters received in this country with the unpaid correspondence from Great Britain, I have to inform you that, as our postage stamps cannot be appropriately used in paying postage upon letters mailed in Great Britain, and when so used, are necessarily disregarded by the British Exchanging Office, it is evident that any discrepancy in the rating of such letters by the British and United States Offices of Exchange, would lead to confusion in the accounts between the two countries, which it is important to avoid. Moreover, the recognition by this Department of its stamps thus improperly affixed to letters originating in foreign countries, would tend to encourage a practice which should be discontinued.

With respect to letters received from Canada, bearing upon them uncancelled U. S. postage stamps of sufficient value to cover the postage chargeable on delivery, this Department has adopted the rule of recognition, for the reason that no accounts are kept between the respective Post Office Departments upon the correspondence exchanged with Canada, and no confusion can possibly result from recognizing our own stamps upon this class of letters.

It is deemed important, therefore, to settle the rule, as follows:—

Postmasters are directed to disregard the use in England of United States postage stamps, and the use in the United States of English postage stamps, for the purpose of prepaying international postage, and to follow the rating of postage as made by the Exchanging Offices of the two countries.

JOHN A. KASSON,
First Ass't P. M. General.

J. HOLBROOK, Esq., Special Agent, &c.

POSTAGE TO BRITISH AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.—Notice has been given by the French Post Office that letters mailed in the United States, and addressed by the way of Marseilles and Suez, to the British Australian colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and New Zealand, may hereafter be prepaid to destination in those provinces at the existing rate of postage, or be dispatched without prepayment, at the option of the sender. Upon letters addressed to Southern Australia and Tasmania, prepayment remains obligatory, at the existing rate of thirty cents per quarter ounce or fraction of a quarter ounce.

The number of postage stamps sold in the New York post office has been gradually increasing for the past two months, and is considered a sure indication of the revival of business generally. The amount now averages about \$2,300 per day, and will no doubt soon reach, and possibly exceed, the amount collected here for stamps before the rebellion. The daily sales then were at the rate of nearly a million dollars a year.

NEW YORK POST OFFICE.—Mr. WAKEMAN, the new postmaster, has inaugurated some important changes in the postal service in this city.

Hereafter the office is to be kept open all night, and a clerk will be in attendance at the night window, to answer all calls.

The several stations are to be opened at 6:30 A. M., and remain open until 9:30 P. M.

Collections are made from each and every lamp post box (575 in number) five times a day.

First, at 8 A. M.; second, 10 A. M.; third, 1 P. M.; fourth, 2:30 P. M.; fifth, 8:15 P. M.

On Sunday the last named (8:15 P. M.) collection only will be made.

There are four deliveries a day by carriers, commencing at the hours following:—

First, immediately after the distribution of the mails in the morning; second, 11 A. M.; third, 2 P. M.; and fourth, 4:30 P. M.

A Nuisance Abated.

Most of our readers will remember an article which appeared, some months since, in our columns, exposing the swindling operations of Messrs "Skinner & Gouge," alias "O. & J. E. Haywood," who offered such extraordinary inducements to purchasers of their "Union Envelopes and Note Paper," but whose transactions were entirely confined to the receipt of the price of their wares, and the inditing of lying letters to their victims, relating, in very indifferently English, and with many expressions of regret, the fact that the letters containing their remittances had been opened and robbed on the route, and offering still more favorable terms, in case of a second investment. The name at that time assumed by these confidence sharpers was "O. & J. E. Haywood," and when their rascally scheme was discovered, their letters stopped, and forwarded to the Dead Letter Office, to be returned to the writers, they changed their address to "C. W. Sampson & Co." They did not long flourish under their new title, however. Sharp eyes were upon them, and they soon found that the profits would be scarcely sufficient to cover the expense of their advertisements. At the same time, they received warning that a renewal of such attempts at fraud would result in disagreeable consequences. For a short time they abstained from their knavish tricks; but finally concluded to make one more trial of their trap, and again advertised under the name of "Charles H. Wilson, Stationer." This time, measures were taken which effectually broke up the concern. Mr. Wilson, alias Haywood, alias Sampson, was arrested on the second appearance of his advertisement, and a charge of fraud, supported by ample evidence, preferred against him. He made a full confession of his misdeeds, professed great penitence, and made abundant promises of reform, which, together with the fact that his wife and infant would be left destitute by his imprisonment, induced the person making the complaint to consent to his discharge for the present, contingent upon his good behavior. Should he allow himself again to indulge in his roguery, a residence of some years at Sing Sing surely awaits him. His dupes will, in due time, receive their letters through the Dead Letter Office.

It is now more than five months since the American P. O. Department agreed to such a modification of the existing postal treaty with England, as would reduce letter postage between the two countries, to one half of the present rates, making a letter weighing half an ounce, 12 cents instead of 24 cents, as at present. The English authorities, however, have not yet seen fit either to assent or decline, and without the consent of both governments, the change cannot be made. Which is the most in favor of low postage, England or the United States?

THE GATE SHUT DOWN.—Mr. Wakeman, the new Postmaster of New York, had quite a crowd of applicants for some weeks after he took the office. They became so numerous, that on the 17th ult., he posted notices outside his office door, and in other public places, of which the following is a copy:—

"As there are already fifty applicants for each office within my gift, no more will be received." The fact is, no man knows how many attentive and sympathizing friends he has, until he comes to the distribution of public or private patronage.

A telegram from Washington announces the appointment of W. A. BRYAN, Esq., to the Chief Clerkship of the bureau of Inspection, in the P. O. Department. Mr. BRYAN has for some months held the position of a Special Agent of the Department, in which capacity he exhibited much intelligence, industry, and devotion to the interests of the government. He is a gentleman of education and has been quite prominent as a loyal Virginian and supporter of the Union cause.

Washington Post Office.

We find in the *Intelligencer*, an interesting statement of the business transacted in the Washington post office.

The business of this office has been more than doubled, we should judge, in consequence of the rebellion. Some additional clerks have been appointed, to meet this increase. From the constant bustle, and great activity among them, and the cart-loads of soldiers' letters and other mail matter, coming and going almost hourly, a casual observer would deem it almost impossible to secure anything like system or accuracy. But under the energetic management of Mr. CLEPHANE, and his experienced Assistant, Mr. TREE, "the work goes bravely on," and to the satisfaction of the public:

"LEWIS CLEPHANE, Esq., our city postmaster, yesterday made to the Post Office Department his official returns for the quarter which ended on the 31st of last month.

"The amount of stamps sold reaches the astonishing sum of 868,705; number of free letters, 792,284; the balance paid to the government is \$52,400; the amount of unpaid letters is \$2,635; for advertised letters, paid during the quarter, \$349.

"During the quarter there were received at the Washington office 3,000 registered letters, and 3,899 sent away; the fees for the latter amounting to \$195. We have the pleasure to state, as in our report of the previous quarter, that not a single instance of delay or loss has occurred in any letter so registered.

"The letter-carriers also appear to have discharged their laborious duties with great fidelity; they have delivered 162,433 letters, and 23,323 newspapers.

"To give the members of Congress, officers at the Capitol, correspondents, and all other persons the most ample time for writing their letters, the Postmaster-General has established a branch post office in the Capitol, from which letters are expedited to the very latest moment.

"The Washington post office continues to receive all letters and newspapers for all the regiments composing the army of the Potomac, sorting, bagging, and transmitting them regularly to the nearest points indicated by the officers commanding. This service, however, yields no remuneration to this office."

A Wrong Practice.

It is no uncommon occurrence to read, in letters complaining of the loss of money sent in the mail, the statement—"I wanted to register the letter, but the postmaster said he had not the necessary blanks, but that he would give me a receipt for it, which would answer the same purpose." Now, it would be well for all postmasters to understand that such a receipt will not "answer the same purpose," nor any good purpose whatever; and we earnestly recommend such of them as are laboring under this delusion to devote an hour or so to a careful study of Chapter XXXIX. of the Regulations of the Department, which treats of the subject of "Registration of Letters." We think they will then be convinced that the purpose for which registration was established can only be effectually served by following, strictly, the directions therein given, and that the slovenly and irregular proceeding of merely giving a receipt, hardly to be considered as a substitute for the prescribed method of registration. Any postmaster can be supplied with the necessary blanks by applying at the proper bureau of the Department, and it is no excuse for his refusing to register a letter to say that he has no such blanks on hand. If such is the case, it is the result of his own carelessness; and even then a temporary entry can be made, which will answer the purpose until the official blanks can be obtained. We need scarcely refer to the not unnatural suspicions which are apt to attach to such conduct, in the minds of the sufferers, in case a letter so receipted for is lost. It is always prudent to "avoid even the appearance of evil;" and if some of our careless, though honest P. M.'s were to hear the remarks which have been freely made in regard to letters lost under the above circumstances, we think they would thereafter take special pains to see that they fulfilled every tittle of the law in regard to the registration of letters.

A PEEP FOR THE POST OFFICE.—In the midst of the unreasonable faultfinding in which many individuals and some presses are so apt to indulge, it is quite refreshing to find admissions such as appeared in the *New York Tribune* a few days since, exhibiting, as they do, most remarkable evidence of the security of the mails and the fidelity of post office officials.

It is well known that the *Tribune* has been adopting the somewhat novel mode for extending its circulation, of offering one of Morton's gold Pens to any one procuring a certain number of subscribers. And it seems that the plan has been very successful. Under this arrangement, the editor says, Mr. Morton has distributed through the mails, ten thousand six hundred and eighty-one Pens; and that in only ten instances have complaints been made of the non-receipt of the pens thus transmitted. We now learn, from Mr. Morton, that of the ten exceptions alluded to, six of the parcels have been returned from the Dead-Letter Office, and the remaining four finally reached their destination, thus accounting for all the ten thousand and odd packages mailed!

Can the immaculate British Post Office Department beat this?

POSTAL SERVICE IN TENNESSEE.—Mr. John Lelylett, the recently-appointed postmaster at Nashville, finds himself considerably embarrassed by the fact that a large quantity of mail matter reaches his office for distribution, addressed to offices in the South with which mail communication has not yet been re-established by the Government. We can, of course, appreciate the natural anxiety of our loyal population to avail themselves of the resumption of postal intercourse with the South at the earliest possible moment; but their object will be best attained by waiting for the due official notice (which is in all cases given), that the interrupted mail service has been re-established to the particular locality which they desire their correspondence to reach. Mr. Lelylett, in a notice published by him in the *Louisville Journal*, says:—

"Only the following post offices have yet been opened in Tennessee, viz.: Nashville, Gallatin, Clarksville, Columbia and Franklin, and perhaps one between Gallatin and the Kentucky line, of which I have no official notification.

"I trust that postmasters throughout the United States will take some care to comply with the postal laws and regulations and the orders of the department. At present an incredible amount of heavy printed matter and newspapers (as well as many letters) is sent to this State, and these parts still in rebel control, to post offices not in existence, and many of which probably never will be re-established. This is wrong on the part of the persons who send such matter to the post offices, and worse on the part of the postmasters forwarding it here."

MUSICAL.—We believe our readers will bear us witness that we are not much in the habit of performing upon the instrument known as "our own trumpet;" yet, when our friends produce from it such pleasant notes as the following, which the postmaster at Middlebury, Vt., sounds in the *Register* of that place, we can see no impropriety in copying the music into our own columns:—

UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.—Having formed a favorable opinion of this work, and having once a slight acquaintance with the editor, we were induced to inclose a dollar to the publisher, and forthwith received a copy. The work justifies our expectations—and more too.

A postmaster that takes the "Mail," and studies it, and does not find out how to run the "machine" correctly, ought to throw up his commission, and leave the field to able hands. As the name would indicate, it marks all the post office changes, gives new regulations—officially—all the new appointments, and all the extensive and perfect details of the Post Office Department. The editor also intersperses his columns with various items of miscellaneous matter that would interest the general reader. We say what has been said many times before, that no postmaster, either in a large or small office, should undertake to "keep house" without it.

Canadian Postal Affairs.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL. The Hon. Sidney Smith, Postmaster-General of Canada, has submitted to His Excellency the Governor-General, to be laid before the Legislature, a Report of the affairs of his Department, for the year ending 30th September, 1861. We will present such of the leading features of the Report as we think may be interesting to our readers.

On the 30th September, 1861, there were 1775 post offices in operation, showing an increase of 78 during the year. We also find, from an accompanying table, that the number of post offices has increased from 601, in 1851, when the affairs of the post office were transferred from the Imperial to the Canadian authorities, to the above number, 1775, in 1861. Number of miles of post routes in 1851 was 7595; in 1861, 14,698. Number of miles of annual mail travel in 1851, 2,487,000, and in 1861, 5,855,000. Number of letters sent by post per annum in 1851, 2,132,000; in 1861, 9,400,000. Postal revenue derived in 1851, \$230,629 00; in 1861, \$683,034 59. The latter amount exceeds the revenue of last year by \$25,000.

Mr. Smith remarks: "It was anticipated that the civil war prevailing in the United States would have so far affected correspondence with that country as to have operated injuriously on our postal revenue; but this has not been the case—the total postal charge on mails exchanged with the United States having been \$188,805 32 in 1861, against \$178,132 80 in 1860. On the inter-correspondence of 1861, \$98,240 33 was collected in Canada, and \$90,564 99 in the United States."

The total expenditure for the year has been \$669,055 59; leaving a clear balance in favor of the Department of \$13,979.

The number of letters forwarded during the year by the Canadian steamships is estimated to have been as follows:

To and from Canada,	670,000
Between the United States and United Kingdom,	360,000
Between the United States and France, Belgium, and Prussia,	130,000
Total,	1,160,000

The amount accruing for the sea conveyance of mails between the United States and Europe has been \$85,116 58.

There has been a marked diminution in the amount of correspondence between the United States and Europe, by the Canadian packets, during the last half of the year 1861, as compared with the former periods, attributable, it may be inferred, to the derangement of commercial business, incident to the disturbed condition of the States."

In connection with the postal service in Canada, is what is termed a Parcel Post, and, judging from the returns, this branch does not appear to be well patronized. The total number of parcels forwarded during the year has been 5000, contributing to the revenue about \$1750. The establishment of a Parcel Post has many advantages, particularly in facilitating the dispatch of parcels to the rural parts of the country, at long distances from the express companies' routes.

Mr. Smith next directs attention to the *Registration of Letters*. Of the 400,000 sent through the post, there were only 37 cases of loss or abstraction. The above is a very satisfactory state of things, and speaks well for the honesty of the employees of the Canadian Post Office Department, and more particularly does it speak well for them when we reflect that many of the above missing letters may have been lost under circumstances entirely beyond the control of the Department.

Mr. Smith closes his very able Report by referring to the *Money Order* Branch of his Department. He says: "The Canadian Money Orders transactions have been less in the aggregate during 1861 than in the previous year; but the business arising from the exchange of Money Orders with the United Kingdom is steadily increasing, and already contributes one-third of the revenue drawn from the Money Order Branch."

After a careful perusal of the Report, we must conclude that the Canadian people have great reason to be well satisfied with the working of the Department. The postal authorities appear to have adopted every means to make the Department as useful to the public as it is possible to make it. Every facility has been granted, to bring the whole country into postal communication: new post routes have been opened in the interior, new offices established, ocean steamships subsidized, and railway mail service carried on with vigor throughout the country. In fact, every means appears to have been adopted to place the Canada Post Office, in point of efficiency and enterprise, second to none, either on this continent or in Europe.

EXTENSION OF THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE.—The work on this improvement is being pushed forward energetically, and there is little doubt that it will be completed at the time specified, (June 1st,) in the contract, though some alterations in the original plan may possibly cause a delay of a few days. Although it was supposed that the remains of all the old Knickerbockers had been removed by their descendants from the vaults of the old churchyard, the excavations made by the workmen reveal the fact that quite a number of them had been overlooked. Under the room at present occupied by the newspaper department of the office, a large vault—which had, probably, been used as a receiving vault—was found to contain a considerable number of human bones.

The new extension, when finished, will be a decided improvement, affording both to the public and the post-office, greatly increased accommodation in regard to room, light and general convenience.

SHOULD COLOR BE A DISQUALIFICATION?—It appears that the Senate has come to the conclusion that our white citizens have enjoyed the monopoly of carrying the mails long enough. On the 31st of March, 1862, Congress enacted as follows:—

And be it further enacted, That no other than a free white person shall be employed in carrying the mail; and any contractor who shall employ or permit any other than a free white person to convey the mail, shall, for every such offense, incur a penalty of twenty dollars.

This proviso was probably made at the instance and for the accommodation of the Southern States. No doubt all the States were more or less in favor of it. But we never could see any sufficient reason for the restriction. Character should be the only test, and yet we presume—in fact, we know—that in some instances, contractors have allowed white persons to act as mail carriers, whose characters were "colored," if their skins were not.

It is a curious fact, that while the Government, since 1824, have kept up this distinction, many of our private citizens seem to have reversed the order, by employing colored persons instead of "pale faces," in conveying their correspondence, after it had passed out of Uncle Sam's custody. We know of some of the largest banks, banking houses, and other public and private institutions in New York, the officers of which employ colored persons as post-office messengers. The Bank of the State of New York; Hiram Barney, Esq., the Collector; Duncan, Sherman & Co.; R. L. & A. Stewart; Delaware, Lackawanna & Western R. R. Company, and others equally prominent, and having extensive and important correspondence, are among those who, in this particular, do not seem to have agreed with the Congress of 1825, on the colored question. Such is also the case in other large cities, and yet we don't recollect of a single instance where any of the persons thus employed have proved dishonest in respect to their post-office duties.

The following is the recent enactment of Congress:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act no person, by reason of color, shall be disqualified from employment in carrying the mails, and all acts and parts of acts establishing such disqualification, including especially the seventh section of the act of March third, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, are hereby repealed.

The first duty of a postmaster, after taking the oath of office, is to subscribe for the "UNITED STATES MAIL."—*New York Independent*.

This is decidedly complimentary. It has brought us at least one new subscriber, who, in endorsing the *MAIL*, perpetrates the following fair hit:

"DEAR SIR:—I see by a notice in the *Independent*, that you are publishing a postal journal, which I have no doubt is just what is wanted in this office, and you will therefore send me a copy, commencing with the present volume.

The *Independent* complains that postmasters return papers to publishers, but omit to postmark them, thus rendering it quite impossible to ascertain from whence they come. And yet the editor tells us that your paper is indispensable, while they fall into precisely the same error of the careless postmasters, by neglecting to give us the slightest clue as to where the *MAIL* is published! Had I not known that your address is New York, I should have been in the same fix in which the *Independent* finds itself with its unstamped papers."

THE RAIL ROADS AND MAILS.—A Bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives, by Hon. Mr. COLFAX, Chairman of the Post Office Committee, of which the following is the copy:

A BILL

TO SECURE THE SPEEDY TRANSPORTATION OF THE MAILS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all companies, corporations or persons, having and using locomotives or cars for the transportation of merchandise or passengers for hire, upon or along any post road or postal route in the United States, shall be, and are hereby, required, upon demand by the Post Office Department, to receive and transport the mails of the United States, and postal agents in charge thereof, upon such car or carriage, and to deliver such mails according to their destination along the line of such road or route, for a compensation and upon contract terms to be agreed upon in writing by the Postmaster-General and such carrier; and in case of their failure to agree thereupon, the same shall be fixed and determined by the Court of Claims at Washington, who may be taken and used therefor, under direction of the Postmaster-General, for which compensation shall be made as heretofore provided; and any person or corporation, by agent or otherwise, in any manner obstructing such use shall, in addition to the penalties now provided by law, if a person, be held guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall, for each offense, be punished by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both, such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court; and, if a corporation, shall be fined for each offense in a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars, or shall forfeit to the United States the use of such conveyance or conveyances for a time not exceeding one year.

CAPT. ENGLAND.—The consequences of a carelessly-written address upon a letter are often very serious, and sometimes even ludicrous.

A letter was recently returned from England, which was intended for an office not far from New York, having been originally mailed at the latter office. After the name of the town and the person for whom the letter was intended, was added, "Care of Capt. England." "England" being the last and most conspicuous word, the mailing clerk mistook the letter for a foreign one, and away it went across the Atlantic.

MASONIC.—The postmaster at Marysville, Ohio writes us as follows:—

"I consider the U. S. Mail (for the assistance it affords to a P. M.) as useful as the Bible to the Christian, and, masonically speaking, if he keeps within a certain —, it will be impossible for him to materially err. I wish Brother Holbrook all the success his enterprise is entitled to; and whenever I find a P. M. who has so far forgotten his duty as not to have subscribed for the U. S. Mail, I shall certainly stir up his pure mind, by way of remembrance."

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, JUNE, 1862.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

To J. HOLBROOK, Esq.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters-General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.

November 21st, 1861.

POSTAGE TABLE.—The table of postage rates on foreign letters and printed matter, which appears on the inside of this paper, is revised and corrected monthly, and may be relied on as an official correct. The table for the current month should always be consulted, as important changes are occasionally required.

What is found in the columns of the MAIL, inserted as it is, only after consultation with the proper officers of the Department—especially on material questions—may safely be relied upon as conformable to the current rules, regulations, and constructions of existing laws.

[OFFICIAL.]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 17, 1862.

POSTMASTER, NEW YORK.

SIR: With reference to my letter of Sept. 10th, 1861, informing your office of a reduced rate of 25 cents upon prepaid letters per U. S. Prussian closed mail, addressed to Prussia, Austria, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurgemburg, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Oldenburg, Laxemburg, Brunswick, Lubeck, Hamburg or Bremen, I have to inform you that in future the same reduced rate of 25 cents will also be extended to the prepaid correspondence by Prussian closed mail addressed to Hanover, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and the postal districts of the Princes of Thurn and Taxis.

The German States and Districts under the postal administration of the Thurn-Taxis post office are: Frankfurt on the Maine, Hesse (Electoral), Grand Duchy of Hesse, Hesse-Cassel, Hesse-Darmstadt, Hesse-Hamberg, Duchy of Nassau, Duchies of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Saxe-Meiningen, and Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, and the Principalities of Reuss, Lippe, Lippe-Deudmold, Hohenzollern, and Schwarzburg.

All prepaid letters, therefore, addressed to any of the German States (except Baden), per Prussian closed mail, are chargeable in future with the reduced rate of 25 cents.

JOHN A. KASSON,
First Ass't P. M. General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 5, 1862.

SIR: I have to inform you that a new arrangement has been concluded between this Department and the General Post Office of the Province of Nova Scotia, requiring the full prepayment of postage to destinations, by postage stamps, upon letters exchanged between the United States and Nova Scotia, on and after the 1st of June next—each country to retain, as at present, all the postage it collects.

All letters, therefore, mailed in the United States, and addressed to Nova Scotia, after the 1st of June, 1862, will be required to be prepaid by U. S. postage stamps at the existing rates, viz: 10 cents the single rate for all distances not over 3,000 miles from the frontier line, and 15 cents for greater distances.

Letters received in this country from Nova Scotia will likewise come fully prepaid, and are to be delivered without further charge.

The prepayment of postage to all the other British North American Provinces continues optional, as at present.

JOHN A. KASSON,
First Ass't P. M. General.

LAW, REGULATIONS, &c.—The latest official book of Post Office Laws, Regulations, and list of post offices, now in the hands of postmasters, was published in 1859. Since that time, new postal laws have been enacted, the catalogue of offices has undergone extensive alterations, and new regulations have been adopted and old ones modified or wholly abolished. For some time past, therefore, the present work has been unreliable, and really of but little practical use—causing more or less embarrassment to post-office officials and others.

This want is about to be supplied by the distribution of copies of a new and revised edition of this indispensable publication, which has just been prepared, and will soon be issued by the P. O. Department. The list of post offices will necessarily be incomplete, so far as the Southern States are concerned, but the columns of this paper will continue to furnish the monthly changes and additions, as well as to note the new laws, rules, orders, and modifications, as they are adopted at headquarters. When it is considered that almost everything pertaining to the management of postal affairs is liable to constant and material changes, the importance of a sheet like the "U. S. Mail," as a supplementary aid to the standard official volume referred to, will be readily acknowledged. So far as the list of post offices and the rates of foreign postages are concerned, no publication which is issued less often than monthly, can be made to satisfy those who look for reliable current information.

Every postmaster will no doubt soon receive a copy of the new book.

Mails for the South.

On Wednesday, May 14, the U. S. steamer Connecticut sailed from New York for New Orleans, carrying to that city the first mail despatched there since the order promulgated by the Department on the 31st of May, 1861, directing the cessation of postal communication with the rebellious States. Mr. Blair has evinced the most commendable promptness and energy in following up the successes of our arms by the re-establishment of postal facilities, not only in this case, but in the many others where the victories of our brave troops have given him the opportunity of so doing. To him and the other officers of the Department great praise is due for the manner in which they have performed their duties in this matter. The Connecticut carried a heavy mail—no less than 12,000 letters, among which were about 7,000 foreign letters, which had accumulated at the Dead Letter Office during the time that the possession of New Orleans by the rebel troops debarred that city from the privileges of the mail. Major Robert R. Scott, of the Inspection office, accompanied the mails, charged with the duty of re-opening the post office, and provided with the necessary materials and ample instructions to aid him in the accomplishment of his important and responsible task.

Mails are now dispatched regularly twice a week from New York for New Orleans by Spoford & Tilston's line of steamers, stopping at Key West.

Within a very few days from the occupation of Norfolk by our forces, Col. Thomas P. Trotter, for many years connected with the Department, was dispatched to that city on a similar mission, which his long experience in postal matters eminently qualified him to fulfill.

And so the good work goes on—the mails swiftly following the advancing footsteps of our armies, carrying light to the people who have so long sat in darkness, and who, through the wicked ambition and treason of a few reckless demagogues, have so long been isolated from this and a thousand other privileges which they formerly enjoyed under the beneficent rule of the United States government. And we trust the day is not distant when the mails shall once more have free course through the length and breadth of our whole land, carrying to and fro messages of peace and love among a people reunited once more and forever.

A WISE PRECAUTION.—It would be well for merchants and others, when mailing valuable letters, to do it in such a manner that legal proof can, if necessary, be produced to substantiate the fact of such letters having been actually deposited in the mails. It is customary to prepare such letters, and hand them to a post-office messenger for mailing, without calling special attention to them, and thus, in case of loss, no one is able to swear positively to the essential fact that the missing letters were actually mailed. In a recent case, tried at Rochester, this embarrassing state of things existed, and would have defeated justice, but for other strong presumptive evidence that the letter did get into the mails. A memorandum-book, kept in every counting-house, in which the fact of the mailing of valuable letters may be recorded by the person actually mailing them, would involve but little trouble, and might prove of incalculable benefit.

Answers to Inquiries.

A postmaster is not required to exchange postage stamps of one denomination for those of another. When, however, he can do so without inconvenience, it is proper that he should make such exchanges as an accommodation, though it cannot be demanded of him as a right.

Postmasters should send to the Department, at the close of each quarter, the registered stamp bills (originals) received during the quarter. The return bills are of course sent to the New York office as soon as received, examined, and compared with the originals.

Letters received from the Dead-Letter Office, the writers of which cannot be found, are to be returned to the Department in the same manner, and entered on the same bill, as other dead letters.

Letters charged with unpaid postage, forwarded to another office by request, should be charged in the quarterly account as "letters mis-sent and forwarded."

The quarterly postage on the New York daily papers, when circulated within this State, is 13 cents when published six times a week, and 22 cents when published daily. The postage on the same papers to any part of the United States is 39 cents and 43 cents respectively.

Letter paper is chargeable with letter postage, 3 cents per half ounce. Phonographic paper (which is paper prepared for the use of short-hand writers) is chargeable with postage at the rate of one cent per ounce.

Among the many humorous designs on the "war envelopes" so much in vogue at present is one representing an officer in the act of drilling a squad, to whom he has just given the order "Front face," but who, in defiance of all military discipline, are persistently casting their eyes to the right, in the direction of a blooming damsel passing in that quarter. The young lady, with commendable neatness, has carefully arranged her drapery in such a manner as to prevent its being soiled by contact with the muddy ground, thereby displaying her good sense and sound understanding. The officer, naturally indignant at the neglect of his order, exclaims, "Men, why in th' thunder don't you face to the front?" but nevertheless is unable to withdraw his own eyes from the point to which the attention of the unruly privates is so strongly attracted. There is a vast amount of human nature illustrated by the story told in this clever little sketch.

On our first page will be found the substance of the remarks of Hon. Mr. COLFAX, reporting adversely on the Senate bill to remove the distinction of color in the mail service.

Mail Robbers in Court.

The U. S. District Court, Judge HALL presiding, has just closed its May term in Rochester, N. Y. There were an unusual number of cases for violations of the post-office laws before the Court, and under examination by the Grand Jury, involving offences of various grades. Some of the offenders were employed in post offices, and others were not. Robbery of letters was the motive in a number of these cases, while, in some instances, there seemed to have been no motive but that of "prying into another's correspondence with a view to ascertain their business or secrets."

Perhaps the trial of most interest was that of William C. Wright, for stealing a whole mail-pouch in the month of last December. On the 14th day of that month, a through pouch was made up, as usual, in the New York post office, for Avon, N. Y., and sent out by the 5 P. M. train on the Erie railroad. The bag contained matter for various towns, and among them that of Lima. The making up of the letter packages in part constituting the contents of the stolen pouch, and the dispatch of the pouch from the New York office, were clearly proven, as well as its safe arrival at Corning, at which place the mails for Avon are taken off, to be sent by the Corning and Rochester railroad. Beyond Corning, no trace of it could be obtained. The 14th Dec. being Saturday, the Avon pouch was, in this single instance, by some mismanagement, placed in a room in the depot, instead of being taken to the post office, according to the established rule of the P. O. Department. This apartment, although kept fastened at the outside entrance, could be entered through a small room used by the telegraph operators.

On the morning of Monday the 16th, Wright, the accused, called at Hungerford's bank at Corning, and presented for payment a draft for \$255 82, drawn by Cole & Williamson, New York, and payable to "J. Chambers," whose name had been indorsed on the back, with the additional name of "William C. Wright." The cashier declined to cash the draft, but proposed to forward it to New York for collection, through one of the city banks. Strange to say, Wright readily consented to this dangerous process, and proposed to call for his money in a few days. Returns were promptly received from New York, the draft having been passed to the credit of Hungerford's bank, and Mr. Wright was as promptly on hand to receive the proceeds, coolly proposing to take a certificate of deposit for a part of the money. No suspicion, up to this time, had been excited. In a few days, however, news came from New York of the forgery of the draft, and the real "J. Chambers," of Lima, being sent for, protested that he had never had the draft or letter which contained it. A successful search was made for Wright, who, it appeared, was known in the neighborhood. He admitted having presented the draft, and received its proceeds, but stated that he won the draft, at some chance game, of a stranger calling himself "J. Chambers." The loss of the Avon pouch being now well settled, and as the letter and draft in question were known to have been among its contents, Special Agent Humphrey was notified of the facts, and an interview with Wright satisfied him that he was the guilty party. But while Humphrey had gone to Elmira for a warrant, Wright took the alarm, and disappeared. It was subsequently discovered, by means of some well-laid plans, that he had gone to the war—in fact, "enlisted" in the First Regiment New York State Volunteers. He was of course followed and brought back, and appeared in the patriotic garb of a soldier on the occasion of his late trial.

It appeared that Wright had been employed as a telegraph operator at various points on the Erie railroad, and in this way he no doubt obtained access to the missing mail-pouch on Sunday at Corning. A singular piece of proof accidentally came to light, clearly settling the fact that he was in the telegraph room alone on that very day. In looking over the messages to be sent about that time, one was discovered from Wright, dated the 15th Dec., Sunday, with the words "Send this," and Wright's telegraphic sign or initials, understood only among the operators on the line, attached. The line being closed on the Sabbath, this message was written, and no doubt left by Wright in the office, to go on the opening of the office on Monday morning. It was one of the most powerful circumstances which led to his conviction, for he was convicted, and sentenced to the Penitentiary for three years.

A young lad, named Gilbert Avery, only 14 years of age, was brought before the Court, charged with stealing letters with money in them at Lockport. He was an outsider, and the stolen letters were the property of his father, who, strange enough, originally favored his arrest, and by whose advice he pleaded guilty when the indictment was read to him. He listened to the recitation of his crimes with an air of indifference worthy of the most experienced and hardened criminal. It was indeed a painful spectacle. Judge HALL addressed him in a few kind and touching remarks, which, however, appeared to fall upon the young scamp without producing the slightest emotion. In fact, he was the only one in Court who was not more or less moved by the Judge's appropriate and feeling address.

He was sentenced to two years' confinement in the "Western House of Refuge" in Rochester.

Samuel Lane, who was tried and convicted of robbing the mails on the Lake Shore, Buffalo, and Cleveland Railroad, was also arraigned for sentence. The Judge made very appropriate and feeling remarks to all the prisoners. Lane had once before been tried and convicted of a similar offence, for which he had suffered a term of imprisonment. The Judge said that he had been given an opportunity to reform, but had failed to profit by it; and that he knew, on the

repetition of his offence, punishment would follow; but he had not taken warning by his past experience, although placed in a position of trust and responsibility, with an opportunity to earn his livelihood, and be a respectable member of society. He had so far forgotten his obligations as to commit crime, and the sentence of the Court was, that he be imprisoned at hard labor in the Albany County Penitentiary, in the city of Albany, for the term of eight years.

The case of the postmaster of Cambria, Niagara county, was before the Grand Jury, for opening a letter belonging to a young lady of that town. The address of the letter being a little indistinct, the postmaster, when it was called for, insisted upon opening it, which he deliberately proceeded to do, claiming that his official right and privilege to open any letter, about the address of which there was the least doubt. It was, however, claimed by the friends of the young lady, that a motive of curiosity to get at certain information the letter was supposed to contain, had more to do with this illegal act, than the alleged blind address. The Grand Jury failed to indict, we are informed, believing that there was really no criminal intent in the conduct of the postmaster.

We only mention this case, that it may be a warning to all postmasters who are inclined to lightly treat the sanctity of correspondence or a seal of a letter. Under no circumstances has a postmaster the slightest authority or right to open a letter not addressed to himself, without the consent of the proper owner, and then the act should not be volunteered.

Hon. W. A. DARR, the U. S. District Attorney, who represented the government in these and other similar cases, is a most efficient, able, and successful public officer. In connection with the Special Agents of the P. O. Department, he is doing much to bring to justice those who violate the post-office laws within the limits of his judicial District.

Robbing the Friendless.

The "Home for the Friendless," it is well known, is an institution of great usefulness, located in this city. The correspondence of its officers has for years been very extensive, and the means for the support of the institution are mainly received through the mails, chiefly in small remittances. It is represented that annually a large sum, in the aggregate, is lost or stolen after having been safely committed to the post offices and the mails. We know that those having the charge of these investigations have done their duty, and yet the complaints do not cease.

If any thing would justify capital punishment for robbing letters in certain cases, the laws should be made to discriminate in favor of this class of correspondence. We cannot believe that any considerable number of miscreants have stolen their way into the post offices or the mail service, had enough to filch, in this mean way, the funds intended to support and educate orphan and unfortunate, friendless children. Can we not induce the letter-thieving gentry, as there is yet supposed to be "honor among thieves," to make it a rule to read the letters they break open? Unless they are more than totally depraved, we should then have hopes that some at least of these intercepted missives would be suffered to pass, with their valuable contents. One thing is certain: If we get hold of any of these orphan-robbers, they shall have no "guardians," at least for a term of ten years, but officers of the penitentiary. We have received the following notice:

THE "HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS."

It is under the care of the American Female Guardian Society, and has been in successful operation over fourteen years. It has fed and clothed more than ten thousand beneficiaries; has transferred many hundreds of children, who were homeless and friendless, to the care and culture of the best families in the community, and numbers of them have thus become fitted for honorable and useful positions.

The average number of inmates is 140, and there are 250 day-pupils taught in the Home Chapel, and supplied with food and clothing. Four "Home Industrial Mission Schools" are supported, in which over one thousand scholars have been registered the past year. On last Thanksgiving-day, the friends of the "Home" provided a dinner for nine hundred and forty children. The children of want are not the only recipients of this charity—large numbers of poor families are assisted, when in sickness and poverty, widowed mothers, and fatherless children. Wherever the worthy poor are suffering relief is sought for them.

This institution relies entirely upon charitable contributions for its support, and to sustain all its benevolent plans. Owing to the state of the country, its ordinary supplies are diminished, while the claims upon it are largely increased. Distant friends often remit sums of money, usually small, through the mails—many of which are widow's mites and the hard earnings of those who have but little of this world's goods. A number of such remittances have not been received. Who can have the heart to perjure these moneys? The aggrieved Society earnestly inquires, is there no help, and no redress?

A correspondent of the Herald, writing from Norfolk, says: "Col. Trotter has completed his arrangements for postal facilities, and the department here may be considered in the full tide of successful experiment. Much good has been done by Colonel Trotter by the judicious manner in which he has discharged his duties. The people, who were disposed to approach him with sullenness, have been completely disarmed by his urbanity of manner, and delicate consideration for their position."

The speech of Hon. Mr. HURON, of Ohio, upon low postage, failed to reach us in time for this number of the Mail.

A New Mania.

About the time of the issue by the government of the new postage stamps, and the recall of those formerly in use, the first symptoms of a new and curious mania were developed. As the old stamps gradually disappeared from use, many persons were suddenly seized with a rage for collecting specimens of each denomination to preserve as curiosities, the value of which would be enhanced by the lapse of time. Owing to the length of time allowed for the exchange of the old issue, this task was comparatively easy; but it is a well-known fact that a taste for the collection of rarities once formed—whether it be for coins, books, pictures, autographs, or postage stamps—is not easily appeased. Like the morbid appetite of the toper, it "grows by what it feeds on." Soon the fever assumed another phase, and more extended proportions. The stamp maniacs began making collections of the stamps of all nations. We have seen stamp albums, in which are tastefully arranged specimens of the postage stamps of all denominations, issued by the governments of nearly all the nations of the earth, for home and colonial use—English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Austrian, Russian, Prussian, Danish, Norwegian, Belgian, Dutch, Swiss, Grecian, Chilian, Brazilian, and Mexican stamps—stamps square, oblong, round, triangular, octagonal, hexagonal, and of no particular shape—some of graceful and artistic design, and others models of ugliness, conspicuous among the latter, the dingy-looking affairs which pass current for postage in Scythia,) stamps of every shade, of every color in the rainbow and out of it, and bearing the image and superscription of nearly every civilized reigning potentate, (besides two which are adorned with effigies of Jeff. Davis.) They range in value from half a cent up to four dollars, ("Pony Express" stamps), and form a very interesting collection, though the owner does not consider it by any means complete, and is constantly making additions. Stamped envelopes are also included in the collection.

The neighborhood of the entrance to the New York post-office has become a sort of exchange, where the amateurs and speculators in this singular business, (principally boys,) daily congregate. They muster in strong force on the arrival of a foreign mail, watch the recipients of letters from abroad, and besiege them with clamorous requests for the stamps. We saw the other day a sailor belonging to one of the foreign ships of war in the harbor, who had just received a number of letters, beset by a crowd of urchins, whose urgent appeals he vain endeavored to comprehend, and who was finally obliged to take flight to escape the bewildering importunities of his persecutors.

A somewhat similar epidemic broke out at the time of the substitution of the nickel cent for the old copper issue—old pennies commanded a high premium, and some of rare dates were literally worth their weight in gold. The penny mania was not of long duration, however—the supply was more than equal to the demand, and curiosity-hunters soon grew weary of prey too easily captured. The stamp mania has succeeded it—what will come next?

A HINT TO THE LAWYERS.—It has often occurred to us, in view of the numerous post-office cases which come before our courts, that it would be of no small advantage to our Judges, District Attorneys, and the legal profession generally, to familiarize themselves, to some extent, with the laws and regulations established by Congress and the Department, in regard to the management of post offices. Very rarely do we find much acquaintance with the *modus operandi* of the mail service, on the part of either Judges or lawyers.

The advantage of familiarity with such matters, was well illustrated during a recent trial in Boston, at which his Honor Judge CLAYTON, of the United States Circuit Court, presided. The Judge stated to us that an experience of ten years as postmaster, in his native State of Maine, enabled him at once to understand the technicalities involved in the evidence, and to appreciate the importance of circumstances connected with the case, to which, otherwise, he might not have attached their due weight. His intimate acquaintance with the duties of his former position proved of great assistance to him, and obviated the necessity of the long explanations which are often required under similar circumstances. We think it would be a good idea for our friends of the bench and bar to add to their libraries a copy of the Postal Laws and Regulations, by a little study of which, they can obtain a knowledge of facts which one day may prove of great assistance to them.

Postmasters are authorized to exchange stamped envelopes that have been misdirected, if the same have never been used; but a careful examination of the seal should be made, as they may have been employed to convey letters by express. Especially is this precaution necessary, if the party asking the exchange is unknown.

The addition to the New York Post Office is rapidly approaching completion. Among other benefits which the public will derive from this improvement is the addition of over a thousand numbered boxes to those already in use, which will enable many who have long desired to avail themselves of the box-delivery system to do so.

NEW YORK BLANK AGENCY.—Mr. Beverly Clark has been appointed Blank Agent at New York, in place of his lamented father, the late Monson Clark. For some years past, Mr. C. has been employed as clerk in the Blank Agency, and his familiar acquaintance with its duties eminently qualifies him to fill the position to which he has been appointed.

Subscribers who have not paid for the Mail for the present year, will please remit at once.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

* The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

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TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES. * 10 cents when not over 3,000 miles from the line of coasting. * 15 cents when distance exceeds 3,000 miles. Prepayment optional.

NOTE.—Five cents the single letter, of half ounce or under, must be added to the rates named in this table by "British mail," "via England," or "via London," respectively, if the letter is from California, Oregon, or Washington.

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Newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and sent to regular subscribers in the British North American Provinces, or published in those Provinces and sent to regular subscribers in the United States, are charged with the regular prepaid quarterly rates of United States postage to and from the line; which postage must be collected at the office of mailing in the United States on matter sent, and at the office of delivery in the United States on matter received. In like manner, such matter, if transmitted, is chargeable with the regular domestic transit printed matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States as the case may be. Editors, however, may exchange free of charge.

Table of postages to various countries including Acapulco, Aden, Africa, Alexandria, Algeria, Altona, Antwerp, Argentina, Ascension, Aspinwall, Australia, Austria, Bahia, Bangkok, Batavia, Bavaria, Belgium, Bern, Bogota, Bolivia, Bourbon, Brazil, Bremen, Brunswick, Buenos Aires, Canada, Candia, Canes, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Verde Islands, Carthage, Central America, Ceylon, Chagres, Chili, China, Constantinople, Cordoba, Cuba, Caracas, Cuzco, Denmark, Demerara, East Indies, Ecuador, Egypt, Falkland Islands, Fayal, Frankfurt, Galatz, Genoa, Gibraltar, Greece, Hamburg, Harbin, Havre, Heligoland, Holland, Honolulu, Hong Kong, India, Java, Japan, Korea, Labuan, Latvia, Liberia, Lombardy, Madeira, Malacca, Maldives, Malta, Manila, Martinique, Mexico, Mecklenburg, Messina, Minorca, Modena, Moldavia, Monaco, Moluccas, Montevideo, Murcia, Naples, New Brunswick, New South Wales, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nice, Norway, Nova Scotia, Oldenburg, Panama, Paraguay, Parma, Peking, Penang, Philadelphia, Portugal, Prussia, Rangoon, Reval, Rhodes, Roman States, Romagna, Russia, Sardinia, Saxony, Schlegel, Seio, Siam, Sicily, Singapore, Soudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tientsin, Tasmania, Tebessa, Tenedos, Tientsin, Trinidad, Tunia, Turkey, Uruguay, Van Diemen's Land, Vera Cruz, Victoria, Volga, West Indies, Wallachia, Warsaw, Wurtemberg, Yanaon.

Table of postages to various countries including Gallipoli, Gambia, Gendaloue, German States, Gibraltar, Great Britain and Ireland, Greece, Hamburg, Harbin, Havre, Heligoland, Holland, Honolulu, Hong Kong, India, Java, Japan, Korea, Labuan, Latvia, Liberia, Lombardy, Madeira, Malacca, Maldives, Malta, Manila, Martinique, Mexico, Mecklenburg, Messina, Minorca, Modena, Moldavia, Monaco, Moluccas, Montevideo, Murcia, Naples, New Brunswick, New South Wales, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nice, Norway, Nova Scotia, Oldenburg, Panama, Paraguay, Parma, Peking, Penang, Philadelphia, Portugal, Prussia, Rangoon, Reval, Rhodes, Roman States, Romagna, Russia, Sardinia, Saxony, Schlegel, Seio, Siam, Sicily, Singapore, Soudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tientsin, Tasmania, Tebessa, Tenedos, Tientsin, Trinidad, Tunia, Turkey, Uruguay, Van Diemen's Land, Vera Cruz, Victoria, Volga, West Indies, Wallachia, Warsaw, Wurtemberg, Yanaon.

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REGISTRATION OF LETTERS.

Valuable letters, addressed to Germany or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by the Bremen line via New York, or by the Prussian closed mail via New York or Boston, as also letters addressed to Great Britain and Canada, will be registered on the application of the person posting the same, in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States, provided that the full postage chargeable thereon is paid in advance, together with a registration fee of five cents on each letter, is prepaid at the mailing office. Such letters should be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS, ETC.

All letters to and from foreign countries (the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, France and the British North American Provinces excepted), are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of half an ounce; double rate, if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding an ounce; quadruple rate, if exceeding an ounce, but not exceeding two ounces; and so on, charging two rates for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce over the first ounce. The rate differs from that followed in respect to domestic letters, great care is requisite to prevent mistakes. Letters in the mail to France are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of one quarter ounce; double rate, if exceeding a quarter, but not exceeding half an ounce; and so on, an additional rate being charged for each quarter ounce or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Letters addressed to the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, and the British North American Provinces, are rated in the same manner as domestic letters, one rate being charged for each half ounce or fractional part of half an ounce. Postmasters should be careful, where the postage is prepaid, to collect the proper amount. They should be particularly to notice the route indicated on the envelopes of letters, and to collect postage accordingly. Letters mailed at some offices, marked "via England," or "via Prussian closed mail," for a German State, are frequently taken upon the prepayment of Bremen rates, and those marked "via Bremen" at Prussian closed rates, &c.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS GOING VIA FRANCE.

In the case of letters to be forwarded in the British mail for transmission from England via "Marseilles," the French postage is rated at six cents the quarter ounce, except with reference to letters for Syria and Tunis, by French packet, when the single French rate is twelve cents. The French rate on all such letters must therefore be doubled for each quarter of an ounce in weight. The rates by "French mail" are in full to destination, except to the following places, viz.: Aden, Batavia, Ceylon, China, cities of Turkey in Europe, except as herein mentioned, via Austria, countries to which correspondence can be sent via Suez, countries beyond seas via France other than those enumerated, East Indies, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Java, Mauritius, Montenegro, Penang, Portugal, Ile de Reunion, Servia, (except Belgrade), Shanghai, Singapore, and Spain. The limit of prepayment to which letters mailed at Gibraltar, is Behobia; to Servia, (except Belgrade), Montenegro, and cities of Turkey in Europe, except as herein mentioned, "via Austria"; to the frontier of Turkey and Austria; to Aden, East Indies, Ceylon, China, and other countries via Suez, the seaports of the interior, they should be placed in the English packets; and to places beyond seas, other than those designated, the limit is the port of arrival in the country of destination. Letters may be forwarded in the French mails to Moldavia, via Wallachia, and Turkey in Europe, by way of France and Austria; but the postage thereon must in all cases be paid at the place of destination.

RATES ON PAMPHLETS, MAGAZINES, ETC.

On pamphlets and magazines, to or from the West coast of South America, the United States postage is four cents; and from all other foreign countries, (except Great Britain and the British North American Provinces,) one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce; to be collected in all cases in the United States. Newspapers and periodicals to foreign countries (portions only to the continent of Europe) must be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends; otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage.

ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, ETC.

To prevent mistakes at the exchange offices, it is desirable that the particular routes by which letters are to be forwarded from the United States to Europe should be distinctly written on the covers. Letters intended for transmission in the open mail to Europe, should be directed "open mail via England"; if for transmission in the French mail, they should be directed, "via France in French mail"; if for transmission by closed mail to Prussia, they should be directed "via Prussian closed mail"; if for transmission in the closed mail to Belgium, they should be directed "via Belgium closed mail"; and if for transmission by the New York and Bremen line to Bremen, or by the New York and Hamburg line to Hamburg, they should be directed, "via Bremen," or "via Hamburg."

DATE OF DEPARTURE OF EUROPEAN, SOUTH PACIFIC AND HAVANA MAILS, FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1862.

Table with columns: Name of the Line, Government to which belonging to, Date of Departure from New York, Date of Departure from Boston, DESTINATION. Includes lines like Aspinwall, Cunard, Havana, Bremen, Danes, Liverpool, Hamburg, etc.

* Pamphlets and periodicals two cents each, if not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if they exceed two ounces, to be collected in all cases in the United States. * The above Postage Tables have been examined and adopted by the Post Office Department, and are to supersede all others now in use.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, JULY, 1862.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Some options received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

October 23, 1861.
DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE an Assistant, a valuable and meritorious publication, and one which should be published monthly, and sent to the country and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.
M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.

To J. HOLBROOK, Esq.
The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster-General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters-General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.

November 21st, 1861.

FOREIGN POSTAGE TABLE.—The table of postage rates on foreign letters and printed matter, which appears on the third page of this paper, is revised and corrected monthly, and may be relied on as officially correct. The table for the current month should always be consulted, as important changes are occasionally required.

What is found in the columns of the MAIL, inserted as it is, only after consultation with the proper officers of the Department—especially in the case of questions—may safely be relied upon as conformable to the current rules, regulations and constructions of existing laws.

There are no changes in our table of Foreign Postages since our last issue. Alterations are carefully made whenever required by information from the Department, and we intend the table shall always be reliable for the month in which it is issued.

Mails for the South Pacific, and Central America.—The California steamers conveying the above mails, are hereafter to sail on the 14th, 11th and 21st of each month. When any of those dates occur on Sunday, the departure will be on the following day.

Mails close at the New York post office at 10-30 A. M.

The repetition of official inquiries, to be answered through our columns, should be avoided as much as possible. This may be done by keeping a file of the paper, and referring to former copies when the desired information is not found in the current number. Nor should information be asked of us at all, until the book of Laws and Regulations, furnished by the Department, has been consulted, as, in many cases of inquiry, the answers are to be found there.

FAILURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN FOR A REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE.—The British Post Office has withdrawn its original proposition, made in 1857, and formally accepted by Postmaster General Blair in November last, for a reduced rate of international letter postage, from 24 to 12 cents, between the United States and the United Kingdom. The United States Post Office Department did not anticipate this withdrawal after the subject was favorably re-opened by the present Post Master General, and upon the British basis. This result will be very much regretted by the commercial and social correspondents in both countries.

It has been ascertained at the Post Office Department that single rate letters, which are enclosed in envelopes embossed with both the one and the three cent stamp of the old style, have, in some instances, been treated by postmasters as wholly unpaid. Public notice is therefore given by the Department that stamped envelopes of this description, which are designed to facilitate the prepayment of the carrier's fees in cities, have not been superseded, and that they are perfectly valid for the prepayment of postage to the amount which the stamps indicate.

LOSSES EXPLAINED.—The officers of an insurance company at Newark, N. J., had been complaining for many months of the failure of money remittances sent through the mails to their address. There were some circumstances which were totally inconsistent with the idea that the losses were the fault of anybody in that or any other post office. On the contrary, it appeared pretty certain that the dishonesty was much nearer home—namely, among those in the service of the company referred to. Accordingly, some experiments were tried in that direction, and resulted most successfully. The young man employed to get the letters from the post office, at last took one too many, and his detection brought on the confession that he, and he alone, had pilfered all the missing letters, the contents of which amounted to several hundred dollars. A portion of this had been saved, and was at once restored.

Corporations and large business firms cannot be too watchful in regard to their correspondence, both before and after it has been through the post office.

The editor of the Cleveland Ohio Morning Leader, who is also post master of that city, has addressed us an able letter for publication, advocating a new system for the collection of newspaper postage. We regret that we cannot find room for the letter in our present number.

Postal Affairs in Congress.

We have read with attention and general satisfaction, the late speech of Hon. Mr. HERRINGS, of Ohio, in the House of Representatives. It was made in explanation and support of a Bill introduced by that gentleman during the present session, embracing many radical changes in the existing postal laws and in our postal system generally.

This able speech, of necessity very lengthy, would occupy the whole space afforded by the columns of this sheet, and therefore its publication in the Mail is out of the question. It should and doubtless will be extensively circulated in pamphlet form, and Congress, in our judgment, will neglect a public duty if it does not order the printing of a large edition for the use of the members, and their constituents.

The Chairman of the Post Office Committee of the House, the Hon. Mr. COLFAX, has been somewhat distinguished in that position, and generally, for his remarkable habits of industry; but the wonderful familiarity with the postal machinery not only of this but other countries, and the elaborate statistical tables and nice mathematical calculations exhibited in this interesting production of Mr. HERRINGS, would seem to admonish the postal organ of the Government in the House, to look well to his laurels.

It was not a prominent object in the establishment of the Mail, to propose or to discuss legislative measures involving material alterations in the laws and principles upon which the American postal system is founded. It is intended rather as a medium between the Department and its subordinate officers, for supplying information as to existing enactments and official regulations.

While we concede to the distinguished gentleman, judging from this speech, remarkable intelligence and thoroughness in postal matters, we cannot subscribe to an idea which is somewhat prominent throughout the address, namely, the perfection of the English system, and that just so far as ours varies therefrom, it is radically wrong. There are no doubt some things which each government might copy from the other with material benefit. And yet we believe that the adoption by us of the British system in all its parts, under the existing state of things here, would only result in confusion and public disaster. We admit that figures are stubborn things, as well as facts, so far as they relate to the past, but statistics when applied to future results, arranged by rules not the most safe and arbitrary, are not quite so reliable and satisfactory in matters of national reform. We have evidence supplied in this very speech, that reformers across the water are not the most sure and immaculate guides, inasmuch as it is admitted that they blundered into the compulsory prepayment principle, and had to abandon it—not even waiting for the results in "figures." "A few years since," says Mr. H., "compulsory prepayment was tried in Great Britain, but was condemned by the almost unanimous voice of public opinion, and was abandoned after a trial of a few months." And it occurs to us, just now, to ask, if England is almost the exclusive friend of low postage, and has so thoroughly settled the principle that low postage rates are not only just to the citizen, but yield increased revenue, why she should have allowed a formal proposition from the U. S. Government to reduce ocean postage fifty per cent, to stand unopposed with and unnoticed for nearly or quite six months! But for the inconsistency of the English postal managers in this respect, letters would have been passing between the two countries for months, at twelve cents the single letter, instead of twenty-four cents.

The city delivery system, especially in London, is unquestionably far more satisfactory to the public, and more profitable to the government, than in our own large cities, though according to the London Times, some things occur in and about the carriers' department even there, which could hardly happen under our "miserable system," as it is called. But the statistical gentlemen do not mention any of the reasons explanatory of the admitted superiority of the English city deliveries—how, by means of the arbitrary laws, that government enjoys an entire monopoly of the letter-carrying business, while here the most influential presses do not hesitate for the most trifling cause to denounce the Post Office Department as a "swindling monopoly," and to encourage and even invite violations of the postal laws, and to insist that private enterprise is preferable.

There is much force in the demand for a more perfect system, to induce the citizens to rely only on government facilities. But before we can have that degree of perfection and reliability, it appears to us indispensable that Congress must establish the principle to which we mainly attribute the success of the English system—namely, the appointment of post office clerks, letter carriers and other subordinates in the mail service, during "good behavior," and mental and physical ability to discharge their duties. This is the most important omission of the advocates of postal reform. Upon this, it may truly be said, hang all the laws and the profits. Give us good, honest, intelligent and experienced clerks and letter carriers, and a plenty of them, and then guarantee the certain enforcement of the laws for the protection of the Government, and complaints of an imperfect American system would soon cease, in our humble opinion, and statistical tables be at a discount, at least for the purposes to which they are now so often applied.

The "Picture for Postmasters," advertised in another column, we can recommend as an excellent work of art, a neat ornament for a post office, and, moreover, remarkably cheap.—The design may possibly be familiar to some "Mrs. Mailsetter" of the present day.

Lost Soldiers' Letters.

From the commencement of the war, complaints have been very frequent of the loss of money letters, alleged to have been posted, or, rather, written, by officers and soldiers, to their families and friends in the Northern States. In most of the cases, however, which have come to our knowledge, the privates, and not the officers, have been the complainants—sometimes by letter, and sometimes in person or through their friends.

Various causes conspire to render this class of correspondence less secure perhaps than any other: such as the impossibility, often, of the soldier himself depositing the letter in the post office, and its consequent exposure to depredation or loss on its way to the mail. Numerous instances of dishonesty on the part of messengers between the regiments and the post office have come to light. The post office authorities have done their utmost, especially in Washington, through which office a great majority of the army letters have been sent and received, to induce the Colonels of regiments to select careful and honest persons for this responsible duty, but we fear such advice has not always been regarded.

Many letters are also known to have been rifled of their contents, or stolen altogether, after they had passed safely through the mails, and been delivered to persons calling for them, with or without authority. The supposition that soldier's letters generally contain remittances, increases the risk, and is a temptation to all who handle them, including, in some instances, no doubt, post office employees.

But how shall we speak of the wicked, heartless act of robbing a poor soldier's letter, on its way to hungry, poverty-stricken families, and sometimes even when the patriotic hand that wrote it, and earned the scanty inclosure, has been shot away, or the inanimate form of the unfortunate author, fills a stranger's grave, in a strange land? There are no laws and no penalties severe enough for such culprits. But it is a difficult task to bring them to justice when detected, as the indispensable proof of the posting of the letter is usually not within reach, and as depositions, except in cases of serious sickness, are not admissible in the U. S. Courts in criminal suits.

We have one or two cases, however, where the proof is perfect, which will soon be tried, and we have no doubt the parties, if proved guilty, will find this business of soldier robbing "a hard road to travel."

The following statement gives the number and value of postage stamps and stamped envelopes distributed by the Department among the various post offices in the United States, during the quarter ending June 23, 1862:

POSTAGE STAMPS.	
9,657,700, 1 cent, value,	\$96,577
34,230,900, 3 cents,	" 1,028,727
117,800, 5 cents,	" 5,890
441,360, 10 cents,	" 44,136
100,875, 12 cents,	" 12,105
115,525, 24 cents,	" 27,726
49,710, 30 cents,	" 14,913
2,980, 90 cents,	" 2,682
64,235,250	" \$1,232,756

STAMPED ENVELOPES.	
4,535,750 envelopes of the various denominations,	
34,230,900 newspaper wrappers, 9,250 letter sheets—valued, in the aggregate, at \$146,347.75	

During the corresponding quarter of 1861, the aggregate value of stamps and envelopes distributed was \$1,459,043.00.

Inquiries Answered.

WITHDRAWING LETTERS.—A postmaster inquires how he shall treat an application to withdraw a letter after it has been deposited in his office.

The legal decisions as to whether the writer of a letter or the party addressed is the rightful owner of such letter, are conflicting. There is great liability to fraud in this matter of withdrawing letters at the mailing office. When the party applying is not known or identified, he should be required to furnish a fac simile of the address. In a majority of such cases, the writing of a second letter, to modify or annul the contents of the first one, would answer the same purpose as a withdrawal.

"How shall we stamp foreign letters which are unpaid? For instance, the postage on letters to Great Britain is 24 cents. If unpaid, we stamp them 5 cents, and post-bill them to New York D. P. O. Is this right?"
"To the German States unpaid, they are 30 cents. Should we stamp them each 5 or 30 cents?"

Answer.—Whether paid or unpaid, the full rate only is to be stamped on the letter. Mail to the nearest distributing office on the route by which the letters are to go.

When a letter is "forwarded," by request, the regular rate of postage must be added to the original charge. See Sec. 64 P. O. Regulations.

Prepayment on drop letters is compulsory. If unpaid, they are sent to the Dead-Letter Office.

"HITCHES" AND "HOPS."—"Is there anything here for George Hogden?" inquired a newly-imported Cockney, named Ogden, the other day, at the New York post office.

"Nothing, sir," replied the clerk, after making search for the expected letter. The inquirer departed, returning the next day, the next, and the next, repeating the same question, and receiving the same reply. At last, happening to closely observe the clerk in his searching operations, he suddenly exclaimed:

"Look here! I say! You're looking among the Hitches, and my name begins with a Ho!"

THE MAIL TO BEAUFORT, N. C.—The Post-office Department has contracted with Geo. M. Taylor to carry the mails from Beaufort to New-York and back daily. Within the past week several old post-offices in Virginia have been re-opened.

Mails for California.

A Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, who no doubt obtained his information from the P. O. Department, gives the following important statement relative to the Overland Mail route to California:

"The public seems not to be fully aware of the fact that the daily overland mail to the Pacific is again in full and successful operation. Such is the fact, as is ascertained from official sources, that correspondents can send their California letters now each day in the week, certainly as regularly and with as much celerity as by the weekly steamers via the Isthmus."

"The miles run off by Indians have all been replaced, new coaches and equipments are on the route, and sufficient military force to protect the line are now in position, so that there is no reason to anticipate further danger of interruption. The time occupied by the overland coach in the trip from St. Joseph, Mo., to Placerville, Cal., from now until next winter, will not exceed seventeen days. Add four days for the trip between this city and St. Joseph, (the regular railroad time is less than three days), and eighteen hours for that between Placerville and San Francisco, and we have a total time of not less than twenty-two days, or one day less than the average time of the steamers."

"Thus it will be seen, correspondents in New-York and Boston may duplicate their California letters on steamer duty, with a probability that the copy sent overland will reach its destination in advance of that sent via the Isthmus, and of course all letters sent overland between steamer days may be expected to gain at least as many days over those sent by the succeeding steamer as there are between their dates and the steamer day. The advantages of the overland mail for all correspondence from Western New-York and the Northwestern States, or for all destined to points in California, east or north of Sacramento City, or to Carson Valley and the Washoe-silver region, are necessarily still greater than is the case of correspondence from the Atlantic seaboard."

"In order to avail themselves of the overland route, correspondents should not forget to indorse their letters, "Per overland mail." As the overland stages are relieved now of carrying printed matter, it must be seen that their facilities for making quick time with passengers and the letter mail only are greatly increased."

"It is believed that large numbers of letters are carried by the steamers outside the mail. This can only be legally done when placed in government envelopes of the proper rates of postage.—[E. M. MAIL.]

COULDN'T SEE IT.—A capital joke occurred during the recent trial of E. O. Parker, in Boston, for mail robbery, illustrating the carelessness (to use no harsher term) of an over-zealous witness.

It was charged by the government that Parker wrote the address of a letter envelope, in which an accomplice, already convicted, received a \$500 bank note, the same being a part of a money package stolen from the mail. A friend and neighbor of his was put upon the stand to aid in disproving this theory, who, on being shown the envelope, went through the motions of a somewhat careful examination, at the same time asserting that he was perfectly familiar with the hand-writing of the accused—had often seen him write, &c., and he was very positive Parker never wrote the address on the envelope.

Some one who was posted suggested to the District Attorney that the witness could not read at all without glasses. Thereupon Mr. Dana, in order to test our friend's optical powers, handed him a piece of plainly-written manuscript, with a request that he would read it. A moment's pause ensued, but no response.

Attorney. "Can't you read it?"

Witness. "No, not with my specs."

Attorney. "Did you have your specs just now, when you examined that envelope, and gave your opinion so decidedly that it was not Parker's writing?"

Witness. "Oh! well—yes—no. No, I did not, but I could tell that wasn't Parker's, without my specs."

"That's all," said Mr. Dana; and our too willing expert, with a slightly-confused manner, slipped down from the stand, evidently convinced that he had made the worst kind of an ass of himself.

RESIGNATION OF THE CANADIAN MINISTRY.

In consequence of an adverse vote in the House of Assembly, the Cartier-Macdonald Ministry have resigned, and a new government has been formed. One of the results of this change is, that the Hon. SINDY SMITH retires from the Postmaster-Generalship, and is succeeded by the Hon. MICHAEL FOLEY. Mr. FOLEY is a lawyer by profession, and occupies a high position as a legislator. During the present session of Parliament he has occupied the important position of leader of the opposition. Mr. FOLEY, in accordance with the principles of Responsible Government, will have to return to his constituents for re-election. In the mean time, the affairs of the Department will be conducted by the able Deputy Postmaster-General, W. H. GRIFFIN, Esq.

THE PENNY-POST.—We copy the following from the Boston Chronicle. Although written for that locality, which, it is admitted, is blessed with a penny-post system, as perfect, to say the least, as in any other of our large cities, is still applicable to the penny-postman elsewhere, as are the wholesome suggestions to those whose servant he is:—

OUR PENNY-POSTMAN.—There are thousands of our citizens who are served daily by the penny postman, and served very faithfully too, who are not aware that by a very little attention on their part they could greatly relieve them of a portion of their most disagreeable duties. This arises from a want of thought, not from any wilful intention to render their labors vexatious. A few suggestions may be advantageous.

Every letter and newspaper taken from the Post Office for delivery is charged to the postman, and on his return to the office from his route he must either pay in specie for it or return it. How unfair, then, is it to blame him because he will not trust or change a bill to take from it one or two cents.

He leaves the office every morning with a number of letters to deliver greater than the number of half minutes there are between the hour at which he leaves and the hour at which he is compelled to return for the next delivery, and he must deliver two each minute of his time to get through as soon as he ought. Do not

then keep him waiting after he rings or while you run all over the house to find a cent or the owner of the letter. Leave a few cents with your servant, or place them on the mantel-piece nearest your door, or, better still, make with him a small deposit in advance. He will not cheat you, but will thank you for your consideration.

No letter carrier is allowed to wait more than two minutes by his watch at any one's door. The rules of the office forbid it, because, by so doing several times on his route, it makes him late with the letters of many who may be anxiously waiting for them, and prevents him from returning in season for the next delivery. Do not therefore feel yourself insulted or treated with contempt if, after waiting as long as he can, you find him gone with your letter when you reach the door. He will bring it to you once more, the very next time he goes his rounds—then, if you do not get it, it is your own fault, and you must go to the Post Office for it. He has tried twice to oblige you and to get his little cent, and now has nothing for his trouble.

Do not look upon the letter carrier as if he was sent to serve you alone. His time and his services belong to hundreds of others, each one as anxious for letters as yourself.

Lastly, if it is an accommodation to have your letters and papers brought to your own house promptly and faithfully, treat the penny postman as you would any other person who was daily doing you a favor."

THE TEST OF LOYALTY.—The Memphis correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, in a recent letter to that paper, states the following facts, by which it appears that "the oath," however bitter a pill it may be for some rebels to swallow, loses all its bitterness when a government office is given—as gum-drops are given to children after a nauseous dose—"to take the taste off."

"The day after the arrival of our fleet at this place the local papers assured the public that there were not a dozen (I think that is the number) respectable Union men in Memphis. A good refutation of this statement can be found in the fact that there were not less than three hundred applicants for clerkships in the newly-opened post office yesterday. More than a hundred men have been 'on the track' of Col. Markland, the Government Mail Agent, since his arrival here one week ago—all of them well-educated and respectable-looking citizens of Memphis, anxious for a position in the employ of Uncle Sam, and ready to produce any amount of testimony as to their loyalty to the Federal Government—ready to swear all kinds of oaths to the Stars and Stripes, and all kinds of hostility to the stars and bars. I have not the least doubt that had Col. Markland issued a hundred 'Wanted, One thousand loyal men for clerkships in the post office of this city; reference required,' he would have been furnished with the entire number in less than half a day."

HEAVY SENTENCES.—At the late term of the U. S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, the following named persons were arraigned on charges of mail robbery, convicted, and sentenced as follows:—

Andrew J. Sargent, ten years in the state prison; Josiah Charles Allen, nine years in the state prison; Charles Allen, (for robbing the North Berwick post office in April last,) ten years in the state prison; and George Whittier, (for mail robbery in Readfield in May last,) eight years in the state prison.

From the Boston Daily Journal.

The Case of E. O. Parker.

The recent trial of Erastus O. Parker, in the United States Circuit Court, on a charge of mail robbery, occupied the unusual time of nine days—the daily sessions of the Court commencing at half past 9 A. M., and closing at about 5 P. M. After a brief absence, the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

This case attracted unusual attention, owing to the large amount taken from the mail, the former good standing of the accused, and the fact that the parties most interested in the case were the officers of prominent banking institutions. No less than three persons were originally indicted as having been concerned in the robbery, namely, Joseph S. Hewins, Henry C. Hewins, his brother, and Erastus O. Parker. The latter was postmaster at Monument, in the town of Sandwich, Mass., and the Hewins brothers were stage drivers on the mail route between Falmouth, Mass., and Monument, running their stages in connection with the trains on the Cape Cod Railroad. They were proved to have been very intimately connected with Parker, bearing in his family when at the Monument end of the route, and having access to the post office at all times.

The stolen package was sent from the Falmouth Bank to the Suffolk Bank in this city, and contained bank notes and checks, drafts and notes of hand, to the amount of upward of \$44,000, \$1700 of which were in bank notes on various New England banks. It should have passed through the Monument post office. At the time of the loss, Mr. Holbrook, the Government Agent of the P. O. Department, was sent to make an investigation. He devoted, as usual, his whole energies to the task of ferreting out the authors of the depredation. A \$500 bill on the Canal Bank, Portland, Me., was finally traced directly to Jos. S. Hewins, which proved to be one of the very notes which were in the missing package. He was tried and convicted in U. S. Circuit Court in this city, in October last.

Among the various counts in the indictment against Parker, was one charging him with having aided and abetted Joseph S. Hewins in the commission of the robbery, and also of secreting and embezzling a \$500 bill, knowing it to have been stolen from the mails. One of the strongest points raised against him on the trial was the writing upon a letter envelope, in which Hewins claimed to have received the \$500 bill from an unknown source, through the Monument post office, and which was addressed to him, J. S. Hewins. The theory of the government was that this bill, with the others, was stolen at Monument by Hewins and Parker jointly, and that in order to account for its possession, in case of its identification, they passed an empty envelope, or possibly one containing only a piece of paper, through the Boston Post Office, so as to get the post mark, and subsequently pilfered the \$500 bill therein, in order that a witness might see its delivery by Parker to Hewins, and also the opening of the envelope, the finding of the bill, &c. Five very experienced experts in handwriting, namely, Messrs. Southworth, Stimpson, Williams and French of Boston, and Hiram Dixon of New York, after a thorough comparison of the writing with specimens produced by Parker, and on his return to the office from his route he must either pay in specie for it or return it. How unfair, then, is it to blame him because he will not trust or change a bill to take from it one or two cents.

He leaves the office every morning with a number of letters to deliver greater than the number of half minutes there are between the hour at which he leaves and the hour at which he is compelled to return for the next delivery, and he must deliver two each minute of his time to get through as soon as he ought. Do not

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

NOTE.—Five cents the single letter, of half ounce or under, must be added to the rates named in this table by "British mail," "via England," or "via London," respectively, if the letter is from California, Oregon, or Washington.

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TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

Canada, New Brunswick, Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. * 10 cents when not over 3,000 miles from the line of crossing. To Nova Scotia the rates are the same as the above. * 15 cents who distance exceeds 3,000 miles. Prepayment optional.

Countries	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Not exceeding one ounce.
Acapulco	20	2	1
Aden, British mail, via Southampton	33	4	1
do do via Marseilles	39	4	1
do French mail	30	6	1
Adrianople, French mail	30	6	1
Africa (West Coast), British mail	30	6	1
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do French mail	30	6	1
do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	30	6	1
do do do by Brit. pkt.	30	6	1
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do French mail	30	6	1
do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	30	6	1
do do do by British pkt.	30	6	1
Algeria, French mail	15	3	1
Altona, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do French mail	30	6	1
Antwerp, French mail	30	6	1
Arabia, British mail, via Southampton	30	6	1
do do via Marseilles	39	4	1
Argentine Republic, via England	45	4	1
do do do from Bordeaux	30	6	1
Ascension, via England	33	4	1
Aspinwall, for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles	10	2	1
do do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	20	2	1
Australia, British mail, via Southampton	30	6	1
do do via Marseilles	39	4	1
do do by private ship from N. York or Boston	5	2	1
do French mail (South American companies)	30	6	1
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Southampton	50	10	2
do do by Bremen and Hamburg mail, via Trieste	55	10	2
Austria and its States, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do (except prov. in Italy) French mail	21	4	1
Azores Island, British mail, via Portugal	29	3	1
Baden, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
Bahama, by direct steamer from New York	21	4	1
Bankok, Siam, via Southampton	45	4	1
do do via Marseilles	51	5	1
Batavia, British mail, via Southampton	45	4	1
do do do via Marseilles	51	5	1
Bavaria, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do French mail	21	4	1
Belgium, French mail	21	4	1
do do do closed mail, via England	27	5	1
do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do by American pkt.	21	2	1
Belgrade, do do do by American pkt.	5	7	1
do do do do by British packet	5	7	1
Beirut, Prussian closed mail	21	4	1
do do do French mail	30	6	1
Bogota, New Granada, do do do	30	6	1
Bolivia, do do do	34	6	1
Borneo, British mail, via Southampton	45	4	1
do do do via Marseilles	51	5	1
do do do French mail	30	6	1
Borbon, British mail, via Southampton	30	6	1
do do do via Marseilles	39	4	1
do do do French mail	30	6	1
Brazil, via England, by British packet	33	4	1
do do do in French mail from Bordeaux	33	4	1
Bremen, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do French mail	21	4	1
Brunswick, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do French mail	21	4	1
Buenaventura, do do do	18	2	1
Buenos Ayres, via England, by Fr. mail from Bordeaux	45	4	1
do do do via France, by Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	6	1
Canada, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do when distance exceeds 3,000 miles	15	3	1
do do do when distance exceeds 3,000 miles	15	3	1
Canary Islands, via England	33	4	1
Candia, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do by British packet	21	2	1
Canea, British mail, by American packet	51	5	1
do do do by British packet	51	5	1
do do do Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do French mail	30	6	1
Cape of Good Hope, via England, by British packet	21	2	1
do do do do by British packet	21	2	1
Cape Verde Islands, via England	29	3	1
do do do do in French mail, via Bordeaux	30	6	1
Carthage, do do do	18	2	1
Central America, Pacific slope, via Panama	20	2	1
Ceylon, open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do by British packet	5	6	1
do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Chagres, (New Granada), for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles	10	2	1
do do do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	20	2	1
China, British mail, via Southampton	30	6	1
do do do do via Marseilles	51	5	1
do do do do by Br. or Hamburg mail via Trieste	55	10	2
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles & Suez	70	10	2
do do do do do French mail	40	6	1
do do do do do by mail to San Fran., thence by private ship	10	2	1
Constantinople, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do French mail	30	6	1
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do do by Brit. pkt.	21	2	1
Corfu—see Ionian Islands.			
Cornica, British mail, by American packet	21	2	1
do do do do French mail	15	3	1
Cuba, when distance does not exceed 2,500 miles	10	2	1
do do do do does exceed 2,500 miles	20	2	1
Curacao, via England, do do do	33	4	1
Cuxhaven, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Dardanelles, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do French mail	30	6	1
Denmark, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do French mail	27	5	1
Durazzo, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do French mail	30	6	1
East Indies, open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do by British packet	5	6	1
do do do do Prussian closed mail, via Trieste	70	10	2
do do do do (English possessions), Prussian closed mail, via Trieste	70	10	2
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Southampton	40	7	2
do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Ecuador	34	6	1
Egypt, (except Alexandria), British mail, via Southampton	33	4	1
do do do do (except Alexandria), British mail, via Marseilles	39	4	1
do do do do (except Alexandria), Prussian closed mail	38	6	1
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
Falkland Islands, via England	30	6	1
Fayal—see Azores Islands.			
France	16	3	1
Frankfort, French mail	21	4	1
do do do do Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do French mail	15	3	1
Galata, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do French mail	30	6	1
do do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do do do by British packet	5	6	1

Countries	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Not exceeding one ounce.
Gallipoli, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Gambia, via England	33	4	1
Gandolphe, via England	33	4	1
German States, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do (except Baden) prepaid	21	2	1
do do do do do Bremen mail	15	3	1
do do do do do (except Luxemburg), by Hamburg mail	15	3	1
Gibraltar, French mail	21	4	1
do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do do by British packet	5	6	1
Great Britain and Ireland, (California, Oregon, or Washington excepted)	24	2	1
Greece, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do do do do by British packet	5	6	1
Hamburg, by Hamburg mail, direct from N. York	10	2	1
do do do do do Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Hanover, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Havana—see Cuba.			
Heligoland, island of, by British mail, in Am. pkt.	33	4	1
do do do do do do in Brit. pkt.	33	4	1
do do do do do do do via England, by private ship	33	4	1
Holland, French mail	21	4	1
do do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do do do do by British packet	5	6	1
Holstein, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do French mail	27	5	1
Hong Kong, British mail via Marseilles	34	6	1
do do do do do do via Southampton	51	5	1
do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
India, British mail, via Marseilles	39	4	1
do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Indian Archipelago, French mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do by British mail, via Marseilles	39	4	1
Ionian Islands, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do British mail	30	6	1
Italy—see Sardinian States, Lombardy, Modena, Parma, Tuscany, Roman States, and Two Sicilies			
Jamaica, by French mail, via Southampton	30	6	1
do do do do do do via Marseilles	51	5	1
Java, British mail, via Southampton	45	4	1
do do do do do do do via Marseilles	51	5	1
do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Jatta, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do open British mail, by American packet	21	2	1
do do do do do do do do by British packet	5	6	1
Japan, British mail, via Southampton	45	4	1
do do do do do do do French mail, via Marseilles	51	5	1
do do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Jerusalem, British mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Karlsruhe, French mail	30	6	1
Kerasand, French mail	30	6	1
Labuan, British mail, via Marseilles	51	5	1
do do do do do do do via Marseilles	51	5	1
do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Larica, by French mail	30	6	1
Lauenburg, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Latakia, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Liberia, British mail, via Marseilles	39	4	1
Lombardy, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Lubeck, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Lucca, British mail, by American packet	21	2	1
do do do do do do do do by American packet	21	2	1
do do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Luxemburg, Grand Duchy, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do French mail	21	4	1
Madeira, Island of, via England	29	3	1
Mahé, French mail	30	6	1
Majorca, British mail, via Marseilles	39	4	1
do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Malta, Island of, open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2	1
do do do do do do do do by British packet	5	6	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Martinique, via England, by British packet	33	4	1
do do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Mauritius, British mail, via Marseilles	39	4	1
do do do do do do do do via Marseilles	39	4	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Mexico, for distances under 2,500 miles	10	2	1
do do do do do do do do for distances over 2,500 miles	20	2	1
Mecklenburg, (Strelitz and Schwerin), Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do do do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do (Strelitz and Schwerin), by Bremen or Hamburg mail	21	4	1
do French mail	21	4	1
Messina, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Minorca, by British mail	21	4	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Mitylene, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Modena, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Moldavia, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Moluccas, British mail, via Southampton	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do via Marseilles	51	5	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
Montevideo, via England, by British packet	33	4	1
do do do do do do do do do via France, by French mail from Bordeaux	30	6	1
Naples, Kingdom of, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
do by Bremen and Hamburg mail	22	3	1
do French mail	21	4	1
Nassau, N. Providence, by direct steamer from N. Y.	21	4	1
Netherlands, The, French mail	21	4	1
do do do do do do do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2	1
do by Brit. Pkt.	21	2	1
New Brunswick—same as Canada.			
Newfoundland do do do do do	18	6	1
New South Wales, British mail, via Southampton	33	4	1
do do do do do do do do via Marseilles	51	5	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	30	6	1
do by mail to San Francisco	10	2	1
New Zealand, British mail, via Southampton	33	4	1
do do do do do do do do do via Marseilles	39	4	1
do French mail	30	6	1
Nicaragua, Pacific Slope, via Panama	20	2	1
do Gulf Coast of	34	6	1
Nice, District of, do do do do do	15	3	1
Norway, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do do French mail	21	4	1
Nova Scotia, when not exceeding 3,000 miles	10	2	1
do do do do do do do do do when distance exceeds 3,000 miles	15	3	1
do when prepaid	28	3	1
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do French mail	21	4	1
do when prepaid	28	3	1
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do French mail	15	3	1
Olomburg, Prussian closed mail	30	6	1
do do do do do do do do do when prepaid	28	3	1
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	1
do French mail	21</		

UNITED STATES MAIL.

Caught Napping.

A most singular occurrence happened at Marshall, Michigan, on the night of July 7th, 1862. One Edward S. Miller entered the post office in that town, by cutting out a pane of glass from the door—lighted the lamp, gathered the letters about him, and sitting down, commenced opening them. While thus engaged, he either had a fit, fainted, or fell asleep, the night being very hot. Between four and five o'clock in the morning, some one passing the post office observed the glass had been cut out, and looking through the window saw Miller sitting in the office, and the lamp still burning. He waited in front of the office until some one else came, when he called his attention to the matter. One went to notify the postmaster, the other watched the man. The postmaster came, when the three entered the office, the man (Miller) still asleep. He had to be shaken hard in order to arouse him. He was arrested and taken to jail, but not searched at the time. Subsequently, on searching him, nothing was found, except a large dirk knife, and a bunch of keys concealed in his pants. In his cell, however, were found, in the ashes of the stove, \$63 in bills and a mail lock and key. Previous to the finding of the money and mail lock the man would not answer any questions, but he then confessed the robbery, but could not account for his having fallen asleep. The money found he admitted he had taken from letters in the office. It appears that this sleeping beauty has served one year in the Ohio State prison.

There were about three hundred letters in the office at Marshall, most of which he had opened before he fell asleep.

BE CAREFUL OF YOUR POSTAGE STAMPS.—We have been surprised to see how careless the merchants, professional men, and others in large cities, are in the custody of postage stamps. In many instances, large quantities are placed in exposed situations, and within reach of any one employed about the premises. We know that, heretofore, the loss in this way has been, in many instances, very considerable; but now that these stamps can be used in lieu of money for the purchase of anything, the temptation to embezzle them is doubled, and it will be well for business men to look sharp to their interests in this respect. They would find it to pay, no doubt, to keep a daily and weekly stamp account, showing how many are bought and how many are used.

In reference to foreign letters, upon which stamps are placed by the writers in prepayment of postage, there can be no doubt that they are often removed before being dropped in the post office, and the letters, where prepayment is optional, sent off unpaid, to the great prejudice, probably, of the correspondent, who is supposed to be adopting this course to avoid the postage tax himself. Numerous cases of this kind have come to light in this and other large cities, and increased care should be exercised, as the facilities and inducements to this species of dishonesty are enhanced.

Postal Affairs.

The important postal reform bill introduced in the House of Representatives by the Hon. Mr. HURDIS, of Ohio, goes over, with other proposed measures of public interest, to the next session of Congress. This is, perhaps, better than to have passed it without a proper and full consideration of the many material changes in our postal system which it embraces. Its principal features are understood to have received the sanction of the present head of the Post Office Department.

It is due to Postmaster General Blair to say that, in our judgment, he has managed his Department with ability and sound discretion, and his administration appears to have been skillful, energetic, and honest. Under his instructions and sanction, important reforms are now being carried out in this and other large cities; and it is only necessary to call his attention to official abuses or short-comings of any kind on the part of his subordinates, or to imperfections in any branch of the mail service, in order to secure strict accountability, and a speedy removal of the causes of all such evils when discovered.

The prompt measures he has taken to restore postal facilities as fast as important Southern points have been recovered and brought under the United States authorities, at once entitle him to the thanks of the entire country, and are creditable alike to his patriotism and his official enterprise.

COPY OF AN OFFICIAL LETTER, addressed to Col. C. A. Wallman, P. M. of Philadelphia:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
App't Office, Washington, July 24, 1862.
Sir: Subsequent to the receipt of your letter of the 20th ult., relative to the proper rate of postage to be charged upon the 4th Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, a member of the Board has called, and submitted copies of the work.

By the rule adopted by the Assemblies of 1836 and 1837, as published at page 577, in the edition of 1861, and other evidence submitted, it appears to be an ecclesiastical publication, annually published, at a fixed office, with a regular subscription price, and a regular list of subscribers, whose subscription is prepaid; embracing much miscellaneous matter, it seems to have all the essential characteristics of a periodical, under the law of 1862.

From this showing, if the Board will furnish you with a certified list of such subscribers, the publication may be sent at periodical rates, to be prepaid at your office as proposed.

Any copies sent to other than bona fide subscribers must pay the full rate of one cent for the first three ounces, and one cent additional for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce, in either case to be prepaid by postage stamps.

Respectfully,
JOHN A. KASSON,
First Ass't Postmaster-General.

Col. WALLMAN, P. M., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Postmaster of Chester, Penn., writes us as follows:
"DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find one dollar for the current year's subscription to your (to us postmasters) invaluable publication. It would be difficult to get along with our official duties without it, and to this end I have endeavored to impress upon all the postmasters in our county with whom I have come in contact the importance of subscribing for it without delay."

New Post Offices, and Changes.

ESTABLISHED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Adrian	Armstrong	Pa.
Alexander Centre	Washington	Me.
Allen's Fork	Jackson	Va.
Antrim City	Antrim	Mich.
Blinnstown	Benton	Mo.
Bonham	St. Croix	Wis.
Brassburgh	Fillmore	Minn.
Buckeye	Frederick	Pa.
Bucknansville	Bucks	Pa.
Canton	Fountain	Ind.
Chaska	Howe	Minn.
Chelsea	Tama	Iowa.
Clay Centre	Clay	Kan.
Clover Bottom	Jackson	Ky.
Coddingville	Madison	Mo.
Collinsville	Jackson	Ohio.
Cottsville	Berkshire	Mass.
Condit	Marion	Oregon.
Dennis Port	Marstable	Mass.
Onion	Lafayette	Wis.
East Chocoma	Martin	Minn.
Elizabethville	Pendleton	Ky.
Elkton	Richardson	Neb. T.
Elmore	Tioga	Pa.
Food Spring	Harrison	Ohio.
Flint	Mahaska	Iowa.
Franklin	Sacramento	Cal.
Geneva	Richmond	Neb. T.
Grand Lacs	Waupeca	Wis.
Grow	Westchester	N. Y.
Hallock's Mills	Jackson	Ohio.
Hemlock	Wood	Mich.
Hicksville	Monroe	Mich.
Hokendauqua	Lehigh	Pa.
Holt's Prairie	Perry	Ill.
Honey Point	Macoupin	Ill.
Hubbardsville	Huntington	Pa.
Hyramsville	Lehigh	Pa.
Indian Creek	Linn	Kan.
Knobsville	Fulton	Pa.
Lake 16	Lehigh	Pa.
Lehigh	Lehigh	Pa.
Leonard's Corner	Providence	R. I.
Levi's	Jackson	Ohio.
Levittown	Wasch.	T.
Lisbon	Lafayette	Mo.
Little Carroll	Carroll	Mo.
Little York	Meado	Ky.
Lock 17	Thearawas	Ohio.
Loxa	Colts	Ill.
Lyle	Mower	Ohio.
Madison	Jackson	Ohio.
Macksville	Cathie	Iowa.
Miles' Ranch	Richardson	Neb. T.
Monand	Richardson	Neb. T.
Montgomery City	Park	Col. T.
Mount Eden	Wright	Mian.
Mount Bullion	Mariposa	Cal.
Mount Pleasant	Alameda	Cal.
Month of Poca	Putnam	Va.
Mount Pleasant	Bucks	Pa.
Newport Centre	Orleans	Vt.
Northwood Narrows	Rockingham	N. H.
Old Landing	Estill	Ky.
Oscola Mills	Clemwell	Pa.
Parsons	Lebanon	Pa.
Pikeville	Oarke	Ohio.
Pleasant Ridge	Leavenworth	Kan.
Point Lookout	St. Marys	Md.
Prarie Park	Noblesville	Mo.
Prarie Park	Wagon Wheel	Pa.
Renville	Renville	Mian.
Richville	Addison	Vt.
Rothland	Barry	Mich.
St. Clement's Bay	St. Marys	Pa.
St. Meinard	Spencer	Ind.
Salem	Kenosha	Wis.
Shaw's Landing	Crawford	Pa.
Sierra Valley	Sierra	Cal.
Silver Creek	Chautauq	Can.
State Line	St. Louis	Mo.
Stony Brook	Cameron	Pa.
Stony Brook	Washington	Pa.
Summer Centre	Kankakee	Ill.
Terry's Corners	Chemung	N. Y.
Three Forks	Barren	Ky.
Union	Pottawamie	Wis.
Washoe City	Washoe	Neb. T.
Weidsville	Lehigh	Pa.
West Meadon	Wynne	N. Y.
West Prairie	Wynne	N. Y.
West Valley	Cattaraugus	N. Y.
West Warren	Worcester	Mass.
White Oak Springs	Brown	Ill.
Williams' Store	Casey	Ky.

DISCONTINUED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Amador	Chicago	Minn.
Aspen Grove	Pendleton	Mich.
Avon	Ionia	Mich.
Bock Mills	Madison	Ind.
Camp Creek	Crittenden	Ky.
Cincinnati	Hendricks	Ind.
Creston	Metrola	Pa.
Crab Apple	Linn	Iowa.
Oarby	Franklin	Ohio.
Draughtville	Dorchester	Md.
East Hill	Wayne	Mo.
Fall Point	Cooper	Mo.
Finchville	Shelby	Ky.
Grangerville	Saratoga	N. Y.
Harbor	Oavis	Iowa.
Haystack	Centry	Mo.
Havanna	Centry	Mo.
Hendersville	Sumner	Tenn.
Knob Prairie	Jefferson	Ill.
Laurel Springs	Waukegan	Pa.
Lavine	Iroquois	Ill.
Loomieville	Mich.	
Macomber's Store	Breckinridge	Ky.
Mariner's Hope	Alenakee	Iowa.
Mon Olet	Linn	Ind.
Mount Gilboa	Benton	Ind.
Mount Salem	Sussex	N. J.
Newark	Worcester	Md.
Neska	Alenakee	Iowa.
North Walton	Potter	Pa.
Papinville	Bates	Mo.
Pedee	Schuyler	Pa.
Picket's Corner	Cass	Mich.
Pyron Root	Scott	Pa.
Pleasantville	Montgomery	Pa.
Prestonville	Carroll	Ky.
Quartz Valley	Siakyon	Cal.
Rockbridge	Ozark	Oregon.
Round Prairie	Douglas	Pa.
Sandy Mines	Jefferson	Mo.
Skylesville	Butler	Ky.
Southampton	Somerset	Pa.
Sugar Grove	Poweshok	Iowa.
Sunshine	Edmonson	Ky.
Sylvan Grove	Clark	Ind.
Tonaquint	Washington	Utah.
Waterville	Adair	Mo.
Warner's Ranch	San Diego	Cal.
West Rutland	Worcester	Mass.
Wimer's Mills	Keokuk	Iowa.
Wolf Creek	Marshall	Ind.

POST OFFICES REOPENED

IN THE SECEDED STATES.		
Clematobville	Jackson	Tenn.
Citrus Cross Roads	Smith	Fla.
Jefferson	Jefferson	La.
Jenkins' Bridge	Accomac	Va.
Messong		
Whitleyville	Jackson	Tenn.

NAMES CHANGED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Backey	Putnam	Ohio
FarmSchool	Centre	Pa.
Overbrook	Lehigh	Pa.
Hogme's Store	Delaware	Pa.
Ottawa	Ottawa	Pa.
Monroe	Monroe	Pa.
Patterson	Wayne	Mo.
Robertsville	Franklin	Ohio.
Rockville	Knosha	Wis.
Southport	Sac	Iowa.
Volney Station	Logan	Ky.
Washoe	Nevada	Oph.
Whitleyburgh	Kent	Del.
		Caroline Co. Md.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Augusta	Sussex	N. J.	Mrs. Eliza Gustin.
Below's Creek	Jefferson	Mo.	Mrs. Corilla Laylale.
Bridgeport	Madison	Pa.	Mrs. Mary S. Thacker.
Cleora	DeWitt	N. Y.	Mrs. Mary M. Orler.
Miamisville	Clermont	Mo.	Mrs. Jane Adams.
Medford Centre	Madison	Pa.	Caroline F. Chase.
Walnut Hills	Hamilton	Ohio	Mrs. Mary J. Lewis.

Presidential Appointments.

La Crosse	La Crosse	Wis.	Leonard Lottridge.
Lockport	Niagara	N. Y.	Isaac Marsh.
Owego	Tioga	N. Y.	Charles Stebbins.

Major R. K. Scott has been appointed Acting Chief Clerk of the P. O. Department, and will perform the duties of the Chief Clerk, W. A. Bryan, Esq., during the temporary absence of that gentleman.

ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL JOHN A. KASSON.—Washington correspondents state that Hon. John A. Kasson, First Assistant Postmaster-General, has tendered his resignation, having been nominated to represent the Fifth Congressional District of Iowa in Congress. This, it will be recalled, is Mr. Kasson's adopted State, he having resided there since 1856, if we mistake not. During this time he has occupied various responsible and highly honorable positions under the State Government, ranking as a man of marked ability and sterling integrity.

During the important events of the past year, Mr. Kasson has been an able adviser and assistant of Postmaster-General Blair, whose confidence he has at all times enjoyed to an unlimited extent. If he can do more and better for the country in this hour of need than as an executive officer of the Government, there will perhaps be no good reason for complaining, however great the loss of his valuable services in the Post-office Department.—*New York Times.*

A postmaster is not required to exchange postage stamps of one denomination for those of another. When, however, he can do so without inconvenience, it is proper that he should make such exchanges as an accommodation, though it cannot be demanded of him as a right.

Postmasters should send to the Department, at the close of each quarter, the registered stamp and stamped envelope bills (originals) received during the quarter. The return bills are of course sent to the office from which the package is received, as soon as examined, and compared with the originals.

Letters received from the Dead-Letter Office, the writers of which cannot be found, are to be returned to the Department in the same manner, and entered on the same bill, as other dead letters.

Letters charged with unpaid postage, forwarded to another office by request, should be charged in the quarterly account as "letters mis-sent and forwarded."

The quarterly postage on the New York daily papers, when circulated within this State, is 19¢ cents when published six times a week, and 22¢ cents when published daily. The postage on the same papers to all parts of the United States is 39¢ cents and 45¢ cents respectively.

Letter paper is chargeable with letter postage, 3 cents per half ounce. Photographic paper (which is paper prepared for the use of short-hand writers) is chargeable with postage at the rate of one cent per ounce.

MARKING OF MAILS.

Letters must bear the post-mark and post-bills the date of the day on which the mail containing them is actually sent off.

Postage stamps must be canceled by an instrument made for that purpose, and used with black printer's ink, or effectually with a pen. The dating must not be made on a canceled stamp.

It is imperative on postmasters to stamp their letters plainly.

CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE.

Irregularities having arisen in respect to Canadian correspondence, these directions must hereafter be observed:

Letters addressed to Canada must be mailed and post-billed to a United States Exchange Office. Letters cannot be sent direct to Post Offices in Canada.

21. The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is 10 cents, prepayment optional—but the whole postage must be prepaid or none. Prepayments are not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

UNITED STATES EXCHANGE OFFICES FOR FOREIGN MAILS.

New York is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian, Belgian, Bremen and Hamburg Mails.

Boston is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian and Belgian Mails.

Philadelphia is an office of Exchange for British and French Mails.

San Francisco is an office of Exchange for British Mails only.

Portland, Detroit, and Chicago are offices of Exchange for British, Prussian and French Mails.

TIME OF CLOSING MAILS AT THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

NORTH.—5 A. M., and 3 30 P. M., by way of Hudson River and Central Railroad to Buffalo and Canada.

SOUTH.—5 A. M., and 4 30 P. M., and 10 30 P. M. EAST.—5 A. M., 3 P. M., 6 30 P. M., (Railroad) and 4 P. M., (Fall River Steamboat).

WEST.—5 A. M., and 3 30 P. M., by Erie Railroad, via Ounkalo, Cincinnati, &c.

MAILS ARE DUE AT NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

NORTH.—One 1 P. M., and 10 30 P. M.

SOUTH.—One 1 P. M., 1 30 P. M., 6 30 P. M., and 10 40 P. M.

EAST.—Due (Steamboat), 7 A. M.; Railroad (way mail), 10 45 A. M., 6 P. M., (Boston Express), 5 30 A. M., and 3 30 P. M., by Erie Railroad.

WEST.—Due 1 P. M., and 10 30 P. M.

TIME AND MONEY SAVED.

INSTEAD of sending your orders and money to parties you do not know, and thereby losing both your time and money, send for what Books, Fancy Articles, Musical Instruments, Note Paper, Envelopes, Ounces, Medicines—in fact, for ANY ARTICLE you want, or may see advertised—

FRED. PARSELLS' PURCHASING AGENCY,

176 WASHINGTON STREET, (removed from 26 Ann Street), New York City. Having every facility, we can buy for you exactly what you want, (charging you no commission) sending you Goods at regular prices, or as advertised—so that you run no risk. The best of reference given in any part of the United States and Canada. Also by permission, to the Editor of this paper. Information in regard to prices of goods transmitted free. Send for our new Circular, giving the prices of the goods you may want; sent free by mail. Address letters to:

FRED. PARSELLS,

General Purchasing Agent,
New York City.

A Picture for Postmasters.

"THE POSTMISTRESS," a beautiful Engraving on Steel, copied from the celebrated Painting by Richter. A splendid and appropriate Ornament for the Post Office or Parlor. Sent free by mail for 50 cents, in stamps or silver, (original price \$3.) or beautifully colored 75 cents. An excellent work of art, and moreover remarkably cheap.—*U. S. Mail.* Address Box 264, New York P. O.

To Postmasters.
Address Box 4750, New York Post Office, for Circular, giving description, prices, &c., of articles useful to Postmasters.

IMPORTANT TABLE,

SHOWING THE DIFFERENCE IN ROUTES, TIME REQUIRED, AND DATES OF DEPARTURE FROM ARRIVAL AT LONDON, OF CHINA AND INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND OTHER MAIL.

Country.	Routes of Transportation.	Date of Departure from New York.	Date of Arrival at London.
Australia	via Southampton	20th	20th
China	via Hong Kong	20th	20th
India	via Calcutta	20th	20th
Southampton	via Southampton	20th	20th
London	via London	20th	20th
Paris	via Paris	20th	20th
Brussels	via Brussels	20th	20th
Amsterdam	via Amsterdam	20th	20th
Antwerp	via Antwerp	20th	20th
Rotterdam	via Rotterdam	20th	20th
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Paris	via Paris	20th	20th
Brussels	via Brussels	20th	20th
Amsterdam	via Amsterdam	20th	20th
Antwerp	via Antwerp	20th	20th
Rotterdam			

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1862.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.
DEAR SIR—I consider the *United States Mail* and *Post Office Assistant* a valuable and meritorious publication, beneficial alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Esq.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:
Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerks of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several branches as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

To our Subscribers.

By the printed terms of this paper, the subscription price (\$1) is made payable in advance. We find that the second volume has now expired, and yet, in a majority of cases, payment is still due. Our subscribers are so scattered, that it would relieve us of considerable trouble if they would remit without further notice, when they will be promptly credited on our books, and receipts sent, if desired.

GUATEMALA—The late Postal Convention between the United States and the Republic of Guatemala provides for an exchange of mails between New York and San Francisco, and makes the city of Guatemala the office of exchange on the side of that republic.

The postage rates are by this arrangement changed from 20 to 10 cents the half ounce, and for each additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, 10 cents is to be charged.

The New Overland Route.

The Overland Mail service is now in regular operation, and goes by the new route between Jalesburg and Fort Bridger, via the old Cherokee trail and Bridger's Pass, to which the stock was lately transferred by permission of the Department, from the old route via Fort Laramie.

Besides shortening the distance, the new route is said to be more convenient and better supplied with the essential qualities of grass and water; also more free from Indian depredations and not generally obstructed by heavy snows during the winter season.

LATER.—Since the above was in type, instructions have been received from the Department ordering all California mails to be sent by steamers via the Isthmus, until otherwise ordered. This is owing to the increasing Indian troubles upon a portion of the regular overland route. The steamers leave New York on the 1st, 11th and 21st of each month.

A Record to be kept.

We omitted, in our last number, to refer to an important order of the Department requiring postmasters to record packages of postage stamps and stamped envelopes passing through their offices, and addressed to other offices. These instructions are intended to apply mainly to distribution and "separation" offices, or those from which other offices are supplied with mail matter. The design is, that special pains shall be taken to note, in writing, the passage of these packages through large or even small offices from which mails are sent out, in order to assist in tracing them in case of loss or miscarriage. The good results of this precaution are already apparent.

A circular on this subject has been issued, but a failure to receive one of them should not deter postmasters from a faithful compliance therewith, wherever they can forward its designs in any way, the main object being the security and safe transmission of these important packages. The date, registered number, name of post office addressed, state, and pouch in which the package is placed, should be stated. The record should be kept in a book.

Route agents are not included in the instructions, and yet we know it to be the desire of the Department that their care and vigilance should also be made available, in all cases where it is possible.

Important.

It has been discovered that the facilities for defrauding the public and the government, resulting from the free use of postage stamps in making change, are by no means neglected by those who are wide awake in such matters. This is done by removing the stamps on envelopes which have already been through the post office, and imperfectly canceled, and either passing them off in making small purchases, or again placing them upon letters to go in the mails, with the expectation that their circulation from hand to hand will account for their soiled appearance, and that the fraud will thus escape detection.

Persons receiving stamps for change should therefore inspect them very closely, as the last holder will be very apt to lose their value when put upon letters. In case doubts arise as to their having been before used in the prepayment of postage, letters bearing such doubtful stamps will be pretty sure to find their way to the Dead Letter Office.

A thorough cancellation in the first instance, by postmasters, will prove the most effectual safeguard, both to the public and the Department.

A few Words of Advice.

It is surprising—or it would seem so, at first thought—to see the persistent manner in which merchants and others, who have suffered from mail depredations, will, by their ill-timed interference or hasty actions, do their very best to obstruct and embarrass the course of official investigations, instituted with a view to discover the perpetrators of the wrong. We say it seems surprising; but unfortunately our experience has long since taught us that such impediments are to be met with by a Special Agent in the performance of his duty, too often to occasion him any feeling of surprise. The investigation of a crime, and the detection of the criminal—especially in the case of offences against the postal laws—is a task of great delicacy, requiring, for its proper performance, extreme caution, experience, and tact. One would naturally suppose, therefore, that those most interested—pecuniarily, at least—in the success of such undertakings, would be willing to abstain from all interference with those to whom is entrusted the duty of endeavoring to track out and bring to justice the guilty party. So far, however, is this from being the case, that one of the most discouraging circumstances which a Special Agent is obliged to contend with, in the pursuance of a duty always sufficiently difficult in itself, is the proneness of these very interested persons, either through obstinacy, misplaced zeal, or an irresistible propensity for meddling with matters they do not understand, to mar and perplex all his "best-laid schemes," and too often to utterly derange plans which, but for such injudicious acts, would have resulted in the detection of guilt and a restitution of the ill-gotten gains of the robber.

"Every man to his trade," is a proverb whose wisdom is self-evident; and we would recommend it to the especial consideration of all those who seem to have such an unconquerable ambition to act as amateur aids to a Special Agent, when, in their interest and that of the government, he is engaged in that peculiar branch of his official business, which consists in following the wary and tortuous movements of a mail depredator. Let them remember that this operation requires, in an unusual degree, the proper exercise of the very faculties—caution, secretiveness, and shrewdness—which the criminal perverts to his unlawful ends. Let them remember that "suspicion ever hunts the guilty mind," and that the least indiscretion on their part—the slightest hint of a suspicion which they allow to reach the suspected person—may, and probably will, so effectually put him on his guard, that, in his dread of discovery, and impelled by the easily awakened fear which ever accompanies conscious guilt, he will hasten to destroy the evidences of his wrong-doing, and thereby frustrate every effort to obtain conclusive proof of his criminal acts.

In the above remarks, we have had especially in view those business men who have occasion to suspect dishonesty on the part of employes having charge of mail matter. The indiscretions to which we have alluded are generally the result of an over-anxiety to assist and forward the operations of the government Agent. To these gentlemen we beg to say, that the most efficient aid they can render in such matters is to place entire confidence in the judgment, experience and discretion which such an officer, selected for this express purpose by government, may fairly be presumed to possess, and to evince that confidence by absolute silence, a careful avoidance of all interference with his plans, and an implicit acquiescence in all his suggestions and directions; while a contrary course will, almost to a certainty, defeat the ends of justice, afford the guilty an opportunity to escape, and deprive themselves of all hope of reimbursement for the losses his conduct may have occasioned them.

POSTAGE CURRENCY STAMPS.—The new stamps, authorized by Congress, are beginning to appear, though thus far they have been retained, in most cases, in single sets, and exhibited as specimens, instead of being used for their legitimate objects. They will no doubt come into pretty general circulation as soon as the embargo of private curiosity ceases, and a sufficient quantity, even for a limited supply, has been furnished the government. Up to the 1st inst., \$175,000 worth have been manufactured and delivered over to the Treasury Department. It is understood that a good share of these have been sold at Washington for army purposes.

Many enquiries are made at the P. O. Department by postmasters and others, showing not a little misapprehension as to the manner of the distribution of the stamps. These applications have become so numerous that it has been found necessary to prepare a circular on the subject, of which the following is a copy:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
FINANCE OFFICE 1862.

SIR:—In answer to your letter of _____, I have to inform you that the "Postage Currency Stamps," issued in pursuance of the provisions of the Act of Congress of 17th of July, 1852, are furnished only by the Secretary of the Treasury, to the Assistant Treasurers and such designated depositaries of the United States as may be by him selected, and will be supplied to persons applying for the same, in exchange for *Treasury Notes or Coin*, through agents of the Treasury Department—not postmasters.

This Department has therefore no control in the premises, except to direct postmasters to receive them in payment for dues, or for the purchase of stamps.

Very respectfully,
A. N. ZEVELY,
Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

To _____

In answer to a note of inquiry, we state that the postage on authors' or other "manuscript sheets" is six cents per ounce, or the same as letter postage.

We must again suggest to postmasters and their clerks a better acquaintance with the official book of laws and regulations.

Boxing up.

Post-office clerks, particularly those employed in large offices, to whom is entrusted the responsible task of boxing up letters, can hardly be too careful in its performance. We are aware of the difficulties which, from the nature of the occupation, make it unreasonable to expect absolute perfection in this matter; but these very difficulties should incline to the most careful attention and watchfulness. Knowing his liability to errors, a box delivery clerk should take every precaution to guard against their commission, by avoiding, as far as possible, undue haste, (to which cause, we are confident, most of the mistakes of this nature are due,) and confining his attention solely and entirely, while boxing up, to the business in hand.

It is difficult to calculate the inconvenience and loss which may be occasioned by depositing a letter in one box which is intended for another. Business operations, involving interests of the greatest magnitude, may be seriously interfered with, if not entirely obstructed, by a clerk who, in a fit of abstraction, or while endeavoring to gossip with a companion and perform his duties at the same time, slips into box 1001 a letter intended for 1010, or places in Thomas Johnson's box a letter addressed to John Thompson. Another evil consequence, our experience has shown us, is likely to ensue from careless boxing up—and that is the temptation which is thereby offered to merchants' clerks to appropriate letters, not addressed to their employers, which are thus delivered to them by mistake. In more than one instance we have traced the beginning of a course of dishonesty on the part of clerks, detected in the purloining of mail matter belonging to their employers, to a yielding to such a temptation thus thrust upon them. The risk of detection seems so slight, and the peculiar circumstances furnish them with such specious arguments wherewith to stifle the admonitions of conscience, that the first false step is made easy to them—soon to be followed by others, until at last they swiftly descend the road which leads to ruin and disgrace.

Let those, therefore, whose carelessness may lead to such results, see to it that they do all in their power to avoid them, by a strict and conscientious performance of the important and responsible duties confided to their charge.

Stealing Soldiers' Letters.

H. D. Dabell, hailing from West Troy, N. Y., a young man of about eighteen years of age, of very prepossessing appearance, and connected with one of the New York regiments, and acting for some time as mail carrier or postmaster for a branch hospital at Washington, was arrested a few days since, charged with opening a sick soldier's letter, and taking a sum of money therefrom. When first accused of the act, he persistently denied it; but when he saw that it was proved beyond a doubt, and finding no chance of escape, he finally admitted the charge, and proposed to settle the matter by refunding the money. This privilege was denied him. Suspecting he might be guilty of other such acts, it was deemed advisable to search his room where were found about one hundred and fifty letters directed to invalids in the hospital, or to parties abroad, and all opened.

Postmaster Clephane made an examination of these letters, and found that many of them had contained small remittances, ranging from \$5 to \$20, and were directed to sick and wounded soldiers in the hospital, or entrusted by them to Dabell, to put into the post office, to go to their wives, mothers, &c.

One letter had contained \$20, sent by a young man who was quite sick at the hospital, to a widowed mother, who was entirely dependent upon him for support, and who supposed his mother had the remittance, until advised to the contrary, by the discovery of the rifled letter. The poor fellow, as might be supposed, was deeply affected.

The evidence of Dabell's guilt was deemed sufficient to send him to jail, where he still remains, awaiting the next term of court. We hope the unfeeling wretch will get his full reward.

Saving Envelopes.

We find that many of the banks, insurance offices and large business firms are adopting the plan of preserving and filing away by dates, letter envelopes covering their correspondence through the mails. This is an additional reason why postmasters and their clerks should postmark letters plainly, as this is about all which gives the envelope importance as a matter of preservation and record. We think we will occasionally take a look at the different assortments thus preserved, in order to ascertain what proportion of them are illegibly post-marked.

A subscriber, and new postmaster, asks us to insert the names of the gentlemen now at the head of the several divisions of the Post-office Department, with whom postmasters are required to hold official correspondence. They are as follows:

Hon. MONTGOMERY BLAIR, Postmaster General.
Hon. JOHN A. KASSON, First Assistant P. M. General, Appointment office, during whose absence from Washington, which will continue for some months from this date, Gen. ST. JOHN B. L. SKINNER, Acting First Assistant, should be addressed.

Hon. GEORGE W. McLELLAN, Second Assistant P. M. General, Contract Office.
Hon. A. N. ZEVELY, Third Assistant P. M. General, Finance and Dead Letter Offices.

WILLIAM A. BRYAN, Esq., Chief Clerk of the Department. Major B. K. SCOTT is now Acting C. Clerk.

Hon. ORRIS ADAMS, Auditor, P. O. Department. The particular subjects upon which each of these officers are to be addressed has several times been stated in our columns.

Answers to Inquiries.

If a postmaster receives an envelope marked "free" on the outside, but containing an unpaid letter, with a request that it should be delivered to the party addressed, full postage must be collected, according to the weight of the entire original package. If enclosed in a free letter relating to post office business, payment on the private letter only, is to be demanded, on delivery. The practice of thus enclosing letters to postmasters, excepting on strictly official business, is, of course wrong, and when indulged in by postmasters or their assistants, should be reported to the Department.

A postmaster writes us thus:—"The question I wish to have settled is, whether postmasters should not detain all transient printed matter received, not prepaid by stamps."

Such matter should be properly rated at the receiving office, and the postage collected in money, on delivery.

MARKING NEWSPAPER NOTICES.—The question is asked whether the marking with a pen or pencil of a newspaper article or advertisement, subjects such newspaper or other printed matter to letter postage. We answer, it does not, when "made for the sole purpose of attracting the eye to a particular article or portion of printed matter." See Sec. 130, of the printed Regulations.

Letters addressed to persons who have permanently removed, and whose residence is known, should not be forwarded as a rule, without a proper request to do so, and then additional postage should be charged, and collected on delivery, unless the extra rate is prepaid. There is nothing in the official instructions forbidding postmasters to forward this class of letters, upon their own responsibility, provided they are satisfied, from all the circumstances, that it would be an accommodation to the parties interested.

The Army Correspondence.

A Washington correspondent of the *Boston Traveller* furnishes some very interesting facts and statistics concerning the business of the Washington post office, which it is well known has been increased enormously, and is constantly increasing, in consequence of the mighty avalanche of soldiers' letters, and the additional official correspondence of the several branches of the government in consequence of the war.

In order to lighten, as far as possible, the great labor and responsibility thus thrown upon the Washington office, postmasters and others, and especially those at the head of distribution offices, should do all in their power to secure accuracy and simplicity in the manner of making up and forwarding letters for the army. An arrangement is already in force in the New York and we believe other principal offices, by which this class of letters are put up in separate parcels, and marked "Military," in addition to the address, Washington, D. C. We think it would be well also, if the Department would so far vary the present rules regulating distribution, as to require at least all Presidential offices to make up such correspondence direct to Washington, or to other points in the vicinity of which large bodies of troops may be congregated, and in a separate package or packages, marked "Military." This would secure greater despatch, and at the same time save a vast amount of unnecessary labor in the distributing offices through which the letters are required to pass, while it would add very little, if any increased duty at the office addressed.

We make the following extract from the communication in the *Traveller*:

"The business of the Washington post office, since the commencement of the war, has wonderfully changed. It always has been an important office, because of the large amount of official mail received and sent. This has greatly increased with the war, and with this increase, together with the civil and military matter, the work of the office is very large. At present it is not so large as during last winter, when 200,000 soldiers were sending off their mails daily; but during the coming fall and winter the work promises to exceed that of last fall and winter. Mr. Lewis Clephane, our postmaster, is, by his well known energetic, systematic, and correct business habits, admirably qualified for the position so well and so satisfactorily filled by him. His force consists of about fifty clerks, divided into different parties, each having a special work to perform.

The military party is the largest, and is under the superintendence of Mr. S. V. NOYES. Upon the arrival of each mail, a portion of this party open the packages of soldiers' letters, and assort them into boxes by States, and the cavalry and artillery into separate boxes. These letters, so assorted, are taken by another party and assorted into regimental and company boxes—the company boxes being only for the cavalry and artillery. These regimental boxes are arranged in separate State cases, the Pennsylvania case already having nearly 150 boxes. When the whole of each mail has been thus assorted, the letters in each box are put into a bag and labeled, but are again examined before being bagged, to detect any mistakes that have occurred in assorting. It is now either called for at the office by regimental or division mail carriers, or forwarded to them. The mail last winter was carried principally by regimental carriers—now by division, excepting the new regiments arriving.

Then the office at times was almost surrounded with the horses of the carriers, as nearly all came on horseback, and the appearance of the carriers in their uniform, inside the office but outside the bar waiting for their mail, looking like a pack of hungry wolves, was quite an interesting sight to a stranger. We already begin to be reminded of old times, for 15 new regiments from the old Keystone State are here, while some other States are not much behind. The work of the office is difficult, from the continual change going on, but more especially from the ignorance or carelessness of persons directing their letters. Let me say, however, little complaint is made about Massachusetts or New England. But New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the West, show a sad deficiency of military knowledge and grammar, and I might add, a great lack of common sense. I copy verbatim, the address of a few letters, and by no means the worst received. "Oscar Soule, Sperryville, Sigel's army." Now there is no Post Office at Sperryville, and in Sigel's army are at least 40,000 souls. Which one shall it be sent to. Another—"Frederick Smith, Warrant, (for Warrenton,) a blacksmith in the army—in great haste." Now this is not very definite, and who can

tell where to send it, except to the Dead Letter Office? Still another—"Glas. Jones, Camp Browning, Ohio Vol." In the above camp are a number of regiments, a greater number of companies, and still greater number of persons. Here, too, is the same difficulty.

Many letters come with the envelope covered over with everything that is needless, and nothing essential, like the following, actually copied from a letter received:—"Geo. F. Armores, Caro Brig-Gen. James Nagles, commanding, 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 9th Army Corps, camp near Rapuhan river, 6 miles from Culpepper Court House, Culpepper county, Va., Burnside's Division."

Now, if, instead of the above long, nonsensical address, he had written thus,—Geo. F. Armores, Co. B, 6th Reg. N. J. Vols.,—we should know just where to send it. The largest number of letters mailed (at this office) in one day has reached 70,000. The number of free letters and packages received during the last quarter was 210,000, or more than three and a half millions during the year.

The net increase of the office, paid over to the Government for the two last quarters ending June 30th, was \$81,000.

The postmaster wishes all persons directing letters to soldiers in the army to know that a simple and short direction is all that is necessary, and is much more likely to quickly reach its destination. All that is necessary is the name of the person, number or letter of his company, and the number and State of his regiment."

A HARD CASE.—General Pope was, a short time since, obliged, by the exigencies of his position, to lay an embargo upon all the letters written by officers and soldiers of his command, lest his plans and intended movements should, through that source, become known to the enemy. This, though undoubtedly a great hardship, was probably an unavoidable necessity. All letters from the army were detained at some point beyond Washington, where they accumulated in large numbers. This explanation may serve to relieve the anxiety of friends who, not receiving replies to their letters, may indulge in the most serious and painful apprehensions as to the cause. Letters destined for the soldiers of our army continue to go forward promptly, and we trust the existing restrictions in relation to the returning missives will soon be removed, if indeed such is not already the case.

Careless Post-marking.

By consulting the Regulations of the Department, it will be found that Section 38 provides that "Letters received to be sent by mail should be carefully marked with the name of the post office at which they are received, the abbreviated name of the State or Territory, and the day of the month on which they are forwarded in the mail." The experience of almost every person who is in the receipt of any considerable quantity of letters through the mails will show that this important part of the duty of postmasters and their assistants is, in many cases, performed in a very careless and unsatisfactory manner. Sometimes the name of the mailing office is quite distinct, while that of the State is illegible—and in other instances the date is so imperfectly affixed that it may be supposed to represent any day from the first to the thirty-first of the month. Often the entire post mark is either a mere blotch, "without form and void," from which hours of patient study could derive no clue by which to arrive at even a guess as to its meaning, or a weak, sickly-looking shadow, with just enough feeble resemblance to half a dozen different names to suggest insoluble doubts as to which one of the half dozen is intended.

The post-mark of a letter is often almost as important a matter as its contents. It is liable to be produced as evidence, in courts of justice, to establish the fact of the mailing of important documents, and it may furnish to the officer of the law a clue to the whereabouts of an absconding felon, or give to anxious hearts the trace of a long-lost friend or relative. In fact, no postmaster can tell, as he marks his letters, of how much significance any one of those little black circles may one day become; and it is therefore his duty to see that every letter which leaves his office is, in accordance with his official instructions, "carefully marked."

Out of 1000 post-marks on letters received at the New York office, not more than 600 were found, on examination, to be sufficiently plain to leave no doubt as to the town and State where, or the day when they were affixed. This shows most reprehensible neglect on the part of postmasters and clerks, and we trust that a reform will soon take place.

Another inexcusable practice—expressly forbidden by the Department—is that of using the post-mark as a "stamp-killer." Not only is the canceling often imperfectly effected thereby, but the subsequent removal of the postage stamp is sure to involve the removal of the post-mark besides serving to render it illegible. We have before us now a letter bearing a ten cent stamp, which has been canceled in this manner. All that can be deciphered of the post-mark is "San _____, Cal." So that it would be impossible to tell, except from the contents, whether the letter was mailed at San Francisco, San Antonio, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, San Pedro, or San Diego.

A compliance with the rules of the Department in these matters will, we hope, be rigidly enforced, and we are considering the propriety of publishing in the *Mail* the names of those offices which habitually violate such important regulations.

Gen. SKINNER, Chief Clerk of the Appointment Office, is now discharging the responsible duties of First Assistant Postmaster-General—Hon. J. A. KASSON having gone West, as before announced. Gen. SKINNER's great experience and well-known industry constitute a full guaranty that the duties of his advanced position will be well and acceptably performed.

The alterations in the New York post office are completed, and the office is much more convenient than formerly.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1862.

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Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
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POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 23, 1862.
DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, and I wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.
M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Esq.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmaster-General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, cease to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaux as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.
M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.

Nov. 10, 21st, 1862.

POSTAGE TABLE.—The table of postage rates on foreign letters and printed matter which appears on the inside of a paper, is revised and corrected monthly, and may be referred to as often as desired. The table for the current month should always be consulted, as important changes are occasionally required.

What is found in the columns of the MAIL inserted as copy, after consultation with the proper officers of the Department—especially on material questions—may safely be relied upon as conforming to the current regulations, and constructions of the laws.

[Official Circular.]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
FINANCE OFFICE,
Washington, Sept. 30, 1862.

SIR: The recent demand by the public for postage stamps, under an erroneous impression with regard to the law authorizing the issue of "postage currency," has entirely exhausted the surplus stock, and the Department is now dependent upon the daily manufacture to meet the requisitions of postmasters. Sales of stamps must therefore be restricted to such as may be needed by the public for prepayment of postage, the ordinary demand at any office being the rule.

And inasmuch as the unadvised use of postage stamps as a circulating medium has soiled or defaced them in a greater or less degree, and evil persons taking advantage of that circumstance, have put into circulation stamps which have evidently been used in prepayment of postage, every postmaster is instructed to treat as unpaid any letter placed in a post office for mailing which may be covered with a stamp at all soiled or defaced, or which has apparently been used in payment of postage. Such letters will be sent at once to the Dead Letter Office.

This Department has repeatedly, by special letters and official announcement, declared its opposition to the sale and use of postage stamps for a currency, foreseeing the results of such a course on the part of the public.

Respectfully yours,
A. N. ZEVELY,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

GOVERNMENT ENVELOPES.—The sale of postage stamps in the New York and other post offices has been materially curtailed of late, for want of a sufficient supply, the quantity allowed to each purchaser having been reduced to three dollars for some days past. This is owing to the large and constant drain caused by purchases, for currency.

This will not necessarily embarrass correspondence, as the government envelopes may be had in lieu of stamps.

The List of post offices to be furnished postmasters by the Department, is now in the hands of the public Printer, and will be published soon. The most important regulations will be attached to said list and published therein, but no new edition of the laws will be printed at present.

General SKINNER, for the time being, is by law Postmaster General, during the temporary absence of Judge BLAIR, who is now on a visit to New Hampshire.

WILLIAM A. BEVAN, Esq., Chief Clerk, is again absent from the Department on official business, and Major R. K. SCOTT is Acting Chief Clerk.

THE USE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.—The paragraph which appeared recently in the Washington correspondence of some of the New York papers, stating that the P. M. General would direct the prosecution of parties using the ordinary postage stamps as currency, seems to have been generally misunderstood. While the Postmaster General has no power to authorize such use of stamps, and while the law originating their manufacture designates them for the prepayment of postage, the Department are without any legalized means by which to limit their use to legitimate purposes. It was hoped that their extensive use in making change would cease with the introduction of the new postage currency, but little if any relief has yet been experienced from that source, though the promises of the contractors as to a sufficient supply are all that can be desired. The issues have recently been about \$30,000 per day, one-third of which have been allotted to the Assistant Treasurer Cisco, for circulation or sale here, and the balance to Washington, Baltimore, and Eastern and Western cities. Preparations are making by which the manufacture of these stamps can be greatly increased, so that the present embarrassment, it is hoped, will soon be materially lessened, and the designs of Congress realized to a greater extent at least.

Delivery of Letters.

The practice which somewhat extensively prevails, especially in country towns, of authorizing the delivery of mail matter to any neighbor or acquaintance who may happen to be in the vicinity of the post office, is one which is liable to, and often does, lead to innumerable troubles. In addition to risks arising from motives of curiosity or something worse, such exposure subjects correspondence to the ordinary contingencies of carelessness and irresponsibility.

It often causes great embarrassment in investigations in cases of loss or improper tampering with letters, because they may have been exposed in a variety of ways, which, from the nature of the case, can never be discovered, while the post office, the ordinary "pack-horse" of all sorts of outside deviltry, must stand the brunt of vague suspicions, and sometimes open charges of dishonesty, and harsh denunciations.

It is unjust to postmasters and their clerks thus to hold them responsible, where they are made to share responsibility with a promiscuous circle of young and old, white and black private post office messengers, or to imply, as is almost always the case, that the morals and faithfulness of the former are deficient, while the latter are entirely free from acts of carelessness, or even beyond the reach of temptation.

We knew a case recently, where a valuable letter was delivered to one of a dozen persons authorized to take out the letters of the party addressed. The letter contained some \$200 in bank notes. It was not received by the owner, and a great excitement followed in all the neighborhood. The postmaster had in his office the post bill which unquestionably accompanied the letter, and in fact he distinctly recollected delivering such a letter to somebody, about the time indicated. But this would not do, especially for certain parties who had been "miffed" at the original appointment of our, for the time being, unfortunate official. Said they to one another, as the news of the "robbery" reached them, "We have been expecting something of this kind for some time, and we shall have more trouble before there is less, no doubt," and some of the more active of these gentlemen might have been seen, if the darkness had not protected them from ready observation, peering through the boxes and windows of the post office, night after night, expecting to catch the postmaster or his runner clerk in the very act of tampering with the letters! Judge of their confusion, and we had almost said disappointment, when it was announced by the party most interested that the missing letter and contents had finally reached him in safety, after a delay of a number of weeks. It had been taken out of the office by a "sporting" neighbor, who placed it safely in a pocket of his hunting coat temporarily worn for the day, and was only discovered on the next occasion, when his sporting inclination led him to take it down from the peg, where it had been quietly hanging since his last gameless excursion into the adjacent hunting grounds.

Now, it was not only the postmaster at that point who had suffered unjustly, but the mailing office was for a time also under the ban of suspicion, and even the outside party who claimed to have deposited the supposed lost letter in the post office, having no witness to the act, came in for a share of pretty close scrutiny during the official investigation of the case, and all because of the loose and mischievous practice above alluded to. Cases, illustrating much more important and worse consequences, could be given almost without limit.

There is a phase in this kind of post office experience which appeals directly to the interest, and we may say the selfishness, of correspondents. In case a money letter is lost, and it is proved to have been received at the office for which it was mailed, there can be no legal redress where the postmaster can show that he had been authorized to deliver letters to any one who may call for them. Even the clearest proof of habitual carelessness, and improper exposure of letters in a post office, would not avail, where this system of universal letter carrying is in vogue.

The true and only safe way, in a city as well as country, to curtail the range of personal responsibility as much as possible.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.—We have several times answered queries on this subject, and here is another:

Mr. Editor: Let me ask a question. The regulations say, "postage cannot be pre-paid on regular newspapers or periodicals for a less term than one quarter, and in all cases postage must be paid on such matter at the commencement of the quarter." Now does that mean that if a subscriber commences with the N. Y. Times on the 1st of September, I must collect 39 cents, or postage for the quarter ending Sept. 30? I so understand the law, since we know no other "quarters" than the established ones when our returns are made. If that is the case, a subscriber for a year must pay for a broken quarter to begin with, and a broken one to end with. Please give us your exposition of the meaning of this law.

ANSWER.—The low rate of postage cannot be pre-paid on regular newspapers or periodicals for a less term than one quarter; and in all cases the postage should be paid on such matter at the commencement of a quarter. The post office quarters commence the 1st of July, 1st of October, 1st of January, and 1st of April. Unless the postage shall be paid quarterly or yearly in advance at the commencement of a quarter, the full rate must be collected in advance for the fractional quarter, otherwise on each copy the transient rates as delivered, unless pre-paid at the mailing office.

The celebrated Dr. J. Moffatt, as will be seen by an advertisement in another column, has taken into partnership GEORGE ROBERTS, Esq., well and extensively known as a very thorough, enterprising gentleman in anything he undertakes. We hope that by the help of the pills both he and the Doctor will make their pile.

Caution to Correspondents.

The number of letters sent to Washington from the N. York postoffice has largely increased of late. This fact is, we think, owing to the use of postage stamps that have either been used upon letters previously, and from which the cancelling marks have been partially removed, or so much soiled by circulation as to subject them to a suspicion of an attempted fraud upon the post office. Such doubtful stamps are in many cases, it is presumed, honestly employed in the pre-payment of postage, the last possessor having taken them in good faith as currency, without the slightest scrutiny as to their real condition, and feeling an unwillingness to lose their value. In fact, they are freely paid out and received under circumstances rendering any inspection impossible, beyond, perhaps, determining their denomination, for instance, in the payment of omnibus and railroad fares after dark, in poorly lighted saloons, and elsewhere.

We have no doubt, from discoveries we have made, that large numbers of these worthless stamps have been, with dishonest intent, removed from old envelopes, having already fulfilled their legitimate office. And further, we have good reasons to suspect that in many instances merchants' clerks and porters, having in that way obtained a supply of the second-hand article, attach them to their employers' letters, and pocket the fresh ones entrusted to them to affix to correspondence before posting.

As great disappointment and loss are liable to result from the detection of letters from the above causes, increased vigilance on the part of business men and others becomes necessary, in securing honesty and faithfulness in the preparation of their letters for the mails.

In respect to foreign correspondence, the stamps required being larger in a count, the temptation to remove them before dropping the letters into the office is of course increased, and it is found that employers suffer not a little in this way, especially now that a ten cents or a twenty-four cents stamp is just as available as so much specie.

Private Expresses.

There is reason to believe that the law of Congress forbidding the carrying of letters out of the mail, is still somewhat extensively violated by regularly established express companies, and others. That cases often arise where the greatest harshness, and pecuniary and domestic suffering would result from waiting for the departure of a regular mail, is not to be questioned, but Congress has provided for just such emergencies, by furnishing government envelopes, so called, to be found at any well-regulated post office. When thus enclosed, letters may go in any way, by any conveyance and by any route.

Wonder is often expressed that these envelopes should have any special legal advantage over common ones when prepaid by stamp, the Government in either case getting its proper postage. We have several times explained this in our columns. When the stamp is put on and the letter sent, out of the mail, there is no way of securing its cancellation, and it might be used afterwards to prepay other communications, a fraud to which the stamped envelopes are not liable. In fact, it is impossible, if in their use the law is complied with, according to the last clause of the act, which reads as follows:

Provided, That said envelope shall be duly sealed, or otherwise firmly and securely closed, so that such letter cannot be taken therefrom without tearing or destroying such envelope, and the same duly directed and addressed, and the date of such letter, or the receipt or transmission thereof to be written or stamped, or otherwise appear on such envelope.

All these directions must be complied with, or even the employment of the envelope will not relieve the sender from liability to a prosecution.

It is also unlawful for any person to deposit mailable matter in any appointed place other than a post office, for the purpose of being illegally forwarded. Instances of this kind, growing out of ill-will towards the postmaster, are not infrequent. Such petty acts of malice are wholly wrong, and it is well for those who indulge in such motives and practice upon them to know that they subject themselves to a heavy penalty.

RATING AND CANCELLING INK.—The regulations of the Department require that "cancellation should be effected by the use of black printers' ink, whenever that material can be obtained, and where it cannot, the operation should be performed by making several heavy crosses or parallel lines upon each stamp, with a pen dipped in good black writing ink." In many cases, however, postmasters who are not supplied with a cancelling stamp are in the habit of merely marking a single faint cross on the postage stamp, instead of the "several heavy crosses" required, which has led, since the adoption of stamps as a currency, to extensive swindling by persons who can easily remove the traces of such a cancellation to a sufficient extent to impose stamps, which have been already used, upon the public. We would suggest to postmasters who cannot conveniently procure printers' ink, the use, as a substitute, of refined lamp black and sweet oil, carefully mixed to a proper thickness, which will be found to answer the purpose admirably. Spread it on a cushion, made of a few thicknesses of cloth fastened to a block of wood, and, for a cancelling stamp—in the absence of a better—one which can be easily made, by cutting a few transverse or parallel lines across the end of a smooth cork. By this method a stamp can be so defaced as to effectually prevent its future use, either as currency, or in pre-payment of postage.

Messrs. Francis & Loutrel, stationers of this city, have invented a chemical preparation, or ink, for cancellation, which they claim will stand the test of any attempts at erasure, scientific or otherwise, that may be made. It is in use in the New York and some other large offices, at the suggestion of the Department, as an experiment.

TORSING A DISHONEST PENNY.—We are sorry to see that the present embarrassment, resulting from the scarcity of small change, is making sad inroads upon the morals of our youth particularly, and we fear the unfortunate consequences are by no means confined to that class of the community.

So eager are some of these young sharpers to take advantage of the times, that they may be seen on the first opening of the stores about the city, watching for any old letter envelopes that may be swept out, from which to obtain second-hand postage stamps, hoping to find them either imperfectly cancelled, or to restore them sufficiently to pass muster in some way.

Every business house or individual, having correspondence by mail, should either destroy all worthless envelopes as fast as received, or mutilate the stamps in some way, so that they shall be past the possibility of any fraudulent use. They owe it to themselves to do this, as the very stamps they have once thrown away may come in at the same or another door, and thus find their way into their cash-boxes or their own pockets, and prove the means of great injury to their interests if used in the prepayment of postage, as letters so pre-paid would be retained in the post office.

For the benefit of all who think it a good joke to cheat the public or the post office, by collecting stamps once used, and loddily passing them off as they are, or putting them in a more tidy trim with the same quaint design, we republish here the late Law of Congress on this subject:

AN ACT

TO PUNISH THE FRAUDULENT SALE OR USE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who shall wilfully remove, or cause to be removed, from any postage stamp or stamped envelope the cancelling or defacing marks thereon, with intent to use the same, or cause the use of the same the second time, or shall knowingly and wilfully sell or buy such washed or restored stamps, or offer the same for sale, or give or expose the same to any person for use, or knowingly use the same, or prepare the same with intent for the second use thereof, every such person shall, upon conviction thereof, be adjudged guilty of felony, and shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding three years, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by both imprisonment and fine as aforesaid; and one-half such fine, when collected, shall be paid to the informer.

Approved July 16, 1862.
By the enforcement of this wholesome law in all cases where the proof is sufficient, and by the other expedients under consideration by the Department, to secure perfect and uniform cancellation when the letter is mailed, this species of petty swindling we doubt not, will soon be effectually checked.

BREAKING INTO POST OFFICES.—Two vagabonds, named Clapp and Brown, are under arrest at Boston, for breaking into and robbing various post offices in Massachusetts recently. Clapp, who was first arrested, made a full confession to Special Agent Ordway, giving the name of Brown, his partner in crime, which led to the arrest of the latter. They were examined before a U. S. Commissioner on the 23rd inst., and committed for trial.

P. S. We received from Mr. Ordway, too late for insertion to-day, some additional facts relating to the reckless operations of Brown and Wilson, alias Clapp, their arrest, &c. The Weymouth, Neponset and Brookline post offices were among those robbed. About one hundred mutilated letters were recovered. Wilson testified, on the examination, that Brown did the "heavy work"—breaking in and stealing—while he "stood outside, to give the alarm in case of trouble."

Postmasters cannot be too careful, in taking every precaution in rendering their offices secure against similar robberies. A good dog is not a bad night assistant. In fact, he might prove a better "deliverer" than some of his superiors.

A VERY "DEAD" LETTER.—A short time since, a package, which had been lying uncalled for over a week in the New York office, began to attract the attention of the clerks by the peculiar and not very pleasing odor which it emitted. As the person for whom it was intended could not be found by the carrier at the address indicated, there seemed little prospect of its speedy removal; and the arguments in favor of an investigation of the contents at last became so "strong," that it was thought best to open it, when it was found to contain a dead canary bird. It was probably entrusted to the mail for post-mortem examination.

Post Office, St. John, Mo.,
Sept. 10, 1862.

COME ON, THOU WELCOME LITTLE GUEST.

SIR:—My subscription to the MAIL is about to expire. I therefore enclose one dollar in postage stamps, which please enter to my credit, and forward the valuable little sheet to me as usual for another year. I must say that I cannot afford to be without it, if it should even cost five times as much as it does. It lightens very much the labor of other days, and makes our official task comparatively easy. To use a common phrase, we must say it is a labor-saving institution, and as long as there is one dollar that can be spared, the tidy little paper must be on hand to point out the way. It furnishes much information and instruction, which could only be obtained by addressing the heads of the different bureaux of the Post Office Department, a process which would be very tedious, especially at remote parts of the country; but through the mail it comes with "celerity, certainty, and security."

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
A. S. R.—, P. M.
We would call attention to the advertisement of "VANITY FAIR," in another column. It is one of the most interesting sheets published, and deserves well of the public for its enterprise and ability.

Burnt Fingers.

The Atlanta (Ga.) Confederacy publishes a bilious diatribe on the subject of the mismanagement of the rickety machines which the rebels call their Post Office Department. Like the boy who stole a newly-made horse-shoe, these gentlemen find that in laying violent hands on Uncle Sam's postal arrangements, they have burned their fingers severely; but unlike the boy, they can't drop it.

The first complaint the chivalrous Georgian has to utter is made on the unobtrusive score of expense. It must have been a mortifying thing for a "high-toned" Atlantan to be obliged to liggle and potter, like the veri at Yankee pedlar, over a matter of sevenpence, in this wise. Think what pangs his pride must have suffered while he was confessing that he had been obliged to descend to the expedient of reducing his correspondence, in order to save a few paltry pennies on each letter:

"We hope the present rates of postage will be reduced. The rates were increased, no doubt, with a view to increasing the income, and making the department self-sustaining. We have no doubt the revenue has been lessened instead of increased, without reducing the expenses a cent. We know of no safer rule to judge of others than by ourselves. We know that we do not write half as many letters as we did when postage was five cents, and we did not then write half as many as we did when postage was only three cents. We feel sure the same may be truthfully said of a great majority of the people. If this be so, the increase of the rates is not only unwise but suicidal—calculated to aggravate the evil it was intended to remedy."

But this is not the worst feature of the case. "The people," it appears, "have no confidence in the mails as a means of the safe transmission of valuable letters or packages. It is uncertain and irresponsible." True enough—and the same remark will apply equally well to every other "Department" of your bogus government.

The indignant Georgian then goes on to protest, in the stereotyped fashion, against the "monopoly" of the mail service by the government—taking his cue, probably, from those Northern editors who are in the habit of talking in the same strain—and so far forgets himself as to indulge in some rather eccentric English:

"The law now prohibits the people from sending letters by any other mode of conveyance than through the mails, yet refuses to make the government enjoying this monopoly responsible for anything consigned to its care for transportation. More perfect despotic absolutism than this is not practised by any government, nor submitted to by any people on earth, however irresponsible and grinding the one, or abject and servile the other."

"Despotic absolutism" strikes us as a somewhat remarkable expression, even in the mouth of a wrathful Georgian, who has just been obliged to disburse seven hard-earned nickels; but we suppose it is beneath his dignity to confine his flowing eloquence within the narrow limits set by Yankee grammars and dictionaries.

Not content with exalting this dreadful "despotic absolutism," the "government" adds the crowning insult to this deep injury by refusing to send its own valuable packages via the "extra hazardous" conveyance it compels its subjects to make use of—which prudent conduct is thus commented on:

"But after having created this irresponsible monopoly, the inconvenience of which it tries to impose on the people under penalties, it does not itself make use of its own resources of transportation in sending valuable letters and packages. The government has no confidence in its own institution which it imposes on its community, and compels them either to use or contribute to, under heavy penalties; for it does not send its own valuable letters and packages by mail, but sends them by express—a responsible institution. The post office laws, in more respects than one or two, are an outrage on a free people."

The only remedy we can suggest to this afflicted editor is to resume his allegiance to his legitimate government, replace the dingy and dyspeptic ten cent effigies of King Jeff. by the placid three cent portrait of the Father of his country, and thereby save both his sevenpence and his temper.

For the U. S. Mail.

MR. EDITOR:—One of the mail contractors in this vicinity is in the habit of carrying the mail past the post office, and not delivering it till he has delivered his passengers and express packages. I have protested, in writing, against this provoking delay, but it still continues. Am I obliged, under these circumstances, to sign quarterly certificates that he has properly performed the service required of him by the Department? What shall I do?
J. M. L.—, P. M.

In the case referred to, the party complained of is, no doubt, a "sub-contractor," to whom, as in many such cases, the business has been "farmed out," without any particular restraints or instructions. Be this as it may, he has no right to carry his mail by the post office on any pretext, and the postmaster should not only withhold his certificate of service, but should make a special report of the case to the Inspection Office of the P. O. Department.

If express companies must carry the mails, they should be taught that the claims of the government are paramount to those of individuals who employ them.

"THE NEW SOUTH" is the title of a very neatly printed and exceedingly readable weekly, published at Port Royal, S. C., by JOSEPH H. SEARS, Esq., who, since the capture of that place by our fleet under Admiral Dupont, has been well known to the troops quartered there as a particularly "live" postmaster. In point of typography, Mr. SEARS' paper is certainly in favorable contrast with anything we have seen lately from Southern latitudes, while the editorial columns are filled with ably written articles from the pen of Mr. S., a taste of whose terse and happy style our readers have already enjoyed in some of his official correspondence heretofore published by us.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

FOLDING POST BILLS.—Permit me to suggest, through your most valuable publication, the great advantage of folding post bills with the face outward, as the enclosed sample. One moment's reflection will show you that in offices, where there is any considerable amount of business, this proposed manner of folding post bills will save much time. They are immediately read—they remain open, and in position ready to receive the next bill, without being in the way—and they are much more readily filed. Such has been my experience with every description of papers during many years of clerical occupation, viz: that papers are much more easily handled and filed with the *convex* side of the fold outward or upward.

I am disposed to think that a suggestion from the Department to this effect would meet with general approbation and immediate adoption. I commenced in that way in this office; it is now general in this vicinity, and I assure you that it is quite an item of convenience, comfort, and economy of time. At the same time, it may be well to suggest to postmasters that they should fold their post bills as nearly straight across the middle as possible, i. e., at right angles to the columns.

If you will make the experiment with this or any other paper, (not too much crumpled), you will discover the great difference in the ease of placing them in position, and holding them there.

A POSTMASTER.

STAMP PACKAGES.—In a notice in our last of the instructions to certain postmasters to keep a record of all packages of postage stamps and stamped envelopes passing through their offices, we mentioned that Route Agents were not included in the Order. This was correct in reference to the circular letters, but similar instructions were issued to the Agents on a former occasion, and they should see to it that they are thoroughly attended to.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

ESTABLISHED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Big Flats	Wis.
Hond's Point	Ill.
Bridgeport Station	Pa.
Bryant	Ill.
Camden	Neb.
Clinton	Wis.
Conowingo	Md.
Cross Station	Pa.
Crossville	Ohio.
Dundee	Wis.
Farmington	N.Y.
Fountain Green	Ky.
Gerhart	Ind.
Gordonsville	Minn.
Grassland	Ky.
Greasy	Ind.
Grissold	Ind.
Guinala	Cal.
Hargraveville	Ky.
Hillside	Ill.
Irma	Mo.
Jericho	Mo.
Long's Landing	Ky.
Melbourne (c. b.)	Iowa.
Middle Creek	Iowa.
Moutpelier	Ky.
Moore's Corners	Pa.
Nosalee	Iowa.
New Sharon	Mo.
Ontario	Kan.
Primrose	Mo.
Raotoul	Kan.
Rock	Iowa.
Sac & Fox Agency	Mo.
Saint Joseph's College	Ohio.
Saint Martin's	Md.
S. Bridge	Pa.
Sugar	Iowa.
Stoness Home	Pa.
Truckee Creek	Iowa.
Timber City	Kan.
Trippville	Ill.
Truckee Meadow	Neb.
Walla	Wash.
West Harpwell	Me.
Weston Rapids	Wis.
Witoka	Minn.

DISCONTINUED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Ardon	Va.
Bark Hill	Md.
Berlin	Pa.
Brownson's Station	Ohio.
Brushville	Kan.
Buchanan	Wis.
Chelsea	Iowa.
Cold Spring	Mo.
Coles Valley	Oregon.
Deora	Kan.
Deer Creek	Neb.
East Sterling	Mo.
Elderton	Cal.
Excelsior Mills	Ill.
Fairfield	Oregon.
Fairmount	Md.
Fatview	Pa.
Farmington	Ky.
Forest Home	Md.
Foreston	Iowa.
Fort Tejon	Cal.
Garratt's Landing	Ky.
Granny	Minn.
Greenville	Mo.
Half Moon Bay	Cal.
Harrisonville	Pa.
Hereford	Va.
Johnson's Fork	Ky.
Kayote	Cal.
Kingston	Neb.
Merriman	Mo.
Middleburgh	Mich.
Monroeville	Cal.
New Hartford	Minn.
Olstead	Ky.
Orlando	Mo.
Rock Creek	Ind.
Rock Haven	Ky.
Rosyale	Kan.
Sarvis Spring	Mo.
Smileytown	Ky.
South Fork	Cal.
South Pass City	Neb.
Spring Rock	Iowa.
Stone Lick	Ohio.
Superior	Kan.
Three Forks	Ky.
Trenton	Kan.
Wadams	Ill.
Walt Lake	Minn.
Waterman	Iowa.
Webster	Ky.

NAMES CHANGED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Alpha	Cal.
Bell Grove Springs	Ky.
Harrisburgh	Wis.
Julesburgh	Col.
Pleasant	Ohio.
Ross Ferry	Ky.
Russville	Cal.
Walleppa	Wash.

Female Postmasters Appointed.
Annandale, Butler, Pa. Mrs. Nancy A. Black.
Brewington, Orleans, Vt. Miss Elizabeth M. Bingham.
East Liberty, Fayette, Pa. Miss Susan Ransom.
Hone, Venango, Pa. Miss Phoebe J. Richardson.
Laceyville, Harrison, Ohio. Miss Anna J. Lacey.
Mallory, Norfolk, Mass. Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher.
Morrison, Shelby, Ind. Rebecca T. Gadd.
Paris, Edgar, Ill. Helen J. Magner.
Relaxville, Preston, Va. Miss Martha W. Miles.
Springfield, Keokuk, Iowa. Mrs. Frances A. Wilson.
Stewart's Run, Venango, Pa. Miss Malvina Dawson.

Presidential Appointments.
Brattleborough Windham Vt. Daniel Kellogg, Jr.

To our Subscribers.
By the printed terms of this paper, the subscription price (\$1) is made payable in advance. We find that the second volume has now expired, and yet, in a majority of cases, payment is still due. Our subscribers are so scattered, that it would relieve us of considerable trouble if they would remit without further notice, when they will be promptly credited on our books, and receipts sent, if desired.

If a postmaster receives an envelope marked "free" on the outside, but containing an unpaid letter, with a request that it should be delivered to the party addressed, full postage must be collected, according to the weight of the entire original package. If enclosed in a free letter relating to post office business, payment on the private letter only, is to be demanded, on delivery. The practice of thus enclosing letters to postmasters, excepting on strictly official business, is, of course wrong, and when indulged in by postmasters or their assistants, should be reported to the Department.

A postmaster writes us thus:—"The question I wish to have settled is, whether postmasters should not detain all transient printed matter received, not prepaid by stamps."
Such matter should be properly rated at the receiving office, and the postage collected in money, on delivery.

A postmaster is not required to exchange postage stamps of one denomination for those of another. When, however, he can do so without inconvenience, it is proper that he should make such exchanges as an accommodation, though it cannot be demanded of him as a right.

Postmasters should send to the Department, at the close of each quarter, the registered stamp and stamped envelope bills (originals) received during the quarter. The return bills are of course sent to the office from which the package is received, as soon as examined, and compared with the originals.

Letter paper is chargeable with letter postage, 3 cents per half ounce. Phonographic paper (which is paper prepared for the use of short-hand writers) is chargeable with postage at the rate of one cent per ounce.

When newspaper postage has been paid quarterly in advance, and the subscriber changes his residence before the expiration of each quarter, it is the duty of said subscriber to notify the publisher of such change of residence, and have the paper sent direct to his new residence, from the office of publication. He must also obtain the certificate of the postmaster at the office where the postage was paid, that the full quarter's postage has been so paid at such office. Then the postmaster at the office of delivery may deliver the paper to the end of the quarter without further charge. Should he fail to pursue this course, and the paper have to be remailed from his former residence, a new postage must be charged for forwarding. In which case a full quarter's postage must be paid, or the full rate collected upon the delivery of each paper, unless the full rate for the fractional quarter is paid in a single sum.

Under the provisions of the 11th section of the act of Feb. 27, 1861, persons known as regular news-dealers may receive by mail such quantities of newspapers or periodicals as they may require, and pay the postage thereon as they may be received, at the same rates as regular subscribers to such publications.

By the 123d standing instruction of the Department regular news-dealers may mail newspapers and periodicals to bona fide subscribers in the same manner and with the same privileges as if sent direct from the office of publication; but parties not engaged as regular news-dealers, or as publishers, have no right to mail papers not prepaid. But the rate of postage to be collected in such case is the same as if the matter were first mailed at the place of publication.

By the 139th standing instruction of the Department, it is the duty of the postmaster at the mailing office, as well as at the office of delivery, whenever practicable, carefully to examine all printed matter, in order to see that it is charged with the proper rate of postage, and to detect fraud; but this should be done without breaking open the wrapper. Unless papers are done up, as required by the act of 1852, in such manner that their contents may be determined without removing the wrappers, letter postage should be charged, and if not paid at the mailing office, or at the office of delivery, the postmaster of the latter office should return the package to the mailing office, to prosecute for the penalty of five dollars, provided for by the 30th section of the act of 1852: see 128th standing instructions.

Postmasters have no right to give credit for postage; if credit has been given, it is at their own risk, and they must personally account for the amount as if prepaid.

Unless the postage upon newspapers is paid quarterly or yearly in advance, the full rate should be collected upon each paper as delivered.

Letters received from the Dead-Letter Office, the writers of which cannot be found, are to be returned to the Department in the same manner, and entered on the same bill, as other dead letters.

Letters charged with unpaid postage, forwarded to another office by request, should be charged in the quarterly account as "letters mis-sent and forwarded."

LIST OF PRICES OF STAMPED ENVELOPES.

No. 1 Note size, 3 cent, \$0.79 per pkg. of 25, or \$3.16 per 100.
No. 2, Letter size, 3 cent, \$0.80 per pkg. of 25, or \$3.18 per 100.
No. 3, Official size, 1 cent, \$2.65 per pkg. of 25, or \$10.59 per 100.
No. 4, Letter size, 1 cent, \$0.23 per pkg. of 25, or \$1.12 per 100.
No. 5, Letter size, 4 cents, \$1.05 per pkg. of 25, or \$4.19 per 100.
No. 6, Official size, 20 cent, \$5.11 per pkg. of 25, or \$20.44 per 100.
No. 7, Official size, 24 cent, \$6.11 per pkg. of 25, or \$24.44 per 100.
No. 8, Official size, 40 cent, \$10.11 per pkg. of 25, or \$40.44 per 100.

TIME OF CLOSING MAILS AT THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.
North.—5 A. M., and 3 P. M., by way of Hudson River, and Central Railroad to Buffalo and Canada.
South.—5 A. M., and 3 P. M., and 10 P. M.
East.—5 A. M., and 3 P. M., by Erie Railroad, via Dunkirk, Cincinnati, &c.

MAILS ARE DUE AT NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.
North.—Due 1 P. M., and 10 P. M.
South.—Due 4 A. M., 1 P. M., 3 P. M., and 6 P. M.
East.—Due (Stamboat), 7 A. M.; Railroad (way mail), 10 A. M.; (Boston Express), 5 P. M.; 5 P. M.; and 12 Midnight.
West.—Due 1 P. M., and 10 P. M.

TEN YEARS AMONG THE MAIL BAGS.
Apply for Copies of this work, to the Editor of the MAIL. Price \$1.00, and sent postage paid.

IMPORTANT TABLE.

SHOWING THE DIFFERENCE IN ROUTES, TIME REQUIRED, AND DATES OF DEPARTURE FROM AND ARRIVAL AT LONDON, OF CHINA AND INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND OTHER MAILS.

Country.	Route.	Days.	Hours.	Minutes.
Australia	via Melbourne	20	00	00
India	via Bombay	15	00	00
China	via Hong Kong	12	00	00
Japan	via Yokohama	10	00	00
Philippines	via Manila	8	00	00
South America	via Rio de Janeiro	18	00	00
South America	via Santos	16	00	00
South America	via Valparaiso	14	00	00
South America	via Lima	12	00	00
South America	via Buenos Aires	10	00	00
South America	via Montevideo	8	00	00
South America	via Rio de Janeiro	6	00	00
South America	via Santos	4	00	00
South America	via Valparaiso	2	00	00
South America	via Lima	0	00	00
South America	via Buenos Aires	0	00	00
South America	via Montevideo	0	00	00
South America	via Rio de Janeiro	0	00	00
South America	via Santos	0	00	00
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South America	via Buenos Aires	0	00	00
South America	via Montevideo	0	00	00
South America	via Rio de Janeiro	0	00	00
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South America	via Rio de Janeiro	0	00	

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1862.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York. Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 23, 1861.

DEAR SIR.—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General,
To J. HOLBROOK, Esq.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmaster General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several branches as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster General.

November 21st, 1861.

FOREIGN POSTAGE TABLE.—The table of postage rates on foreign letters and printed matter, which appears on the 4th page of this paper, is revised and corrected monthly, and may be relied on as officially correct. The table for the current month should always be consulted, as important changes are occasionally required.

What is found in the columns of the MAIL, inserted as it is, only after consultation with the proper officers of the Department—especially on material questions—may safely be relied upon as conformable to the current rules, regulations and constructions of existing laws.

REGISTERING FOREIGN LETTERS.—Letters can be registered in the United States for Great Britain and Ireland, and all parts of Europe, except France, Belgium, and Holland. Letters to Canada can be registered, but not to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward's Island. Postmasters will therefore decline to register foreign letters, addressed to places not included in the above list.

PACKAGES BY PRUSSIAN MAIL.—It should be remembered that no packages exceeding 1½ ounce in weight (except letters and newspapers) can be sent via Prussian mail. No daguerotypes or heavy packages, other than manuscripts, can be so transmitted. Such articles should be paid to go via Hamburg or Bremen, thereby saving to the sender about one-half the postage—as in any event they will be forwarded by one of the latter routes, whether the rates via Prussian mail have been paid thereon or not.

The New First Assistant.

EX-GOVERNOR RANDALL, of Wisconsin, has received the appointment of First Assistant Postmaster General, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Hon. JOHN A. KANSON, whose election to a seat in Congress we have referred to elsewhere. Governor Randall is said to be a gentleman well qualified for the important position he has been called upon to assume, the duties of which, we have no doubt from his antecedents as a public man, he will most acceptably perform.

WE would again call attention to the recent decision of the Postmaster General, designating what classes of post-office employees are exempt from military draft. It is only postmasters, their assistants and clerks, post riders and drivers of mail stages, route agents, baggage masters, (acting under appointments from the Department) and local mail agents, and mail messengers regularly appointed.

The practice of employing persons in a post office or any branch of the mail service, for the purpose of exemption, is not only dishonest, but when known to the Postmaster General, will entitle the offender to the most effectual exemption papers against any further official employment.

THE EX-POSTMASTER'S ACCOUNTS.—It is always a pleasant task to record the evidences of official promptness and accuracy, even in cases where such results might as a matter of course, be looked for, as in the case of the worthy Ex-Postmaster of New York, WILLIAM B. TAYLOR, Esq. This gentleman was in office from February 9th, 1861, to March 31st, 1862, and during that time he received for the government, by the sale of stamps and from other sources, the sum of \$70,479.73. On the final settlement of his accounts with the government, an exact agreement was found between the Auditor's footings and those of W. W. WHITING, Esq., the efficient cashier, who still has charge of the financial department of the New York office.

The final balance found due from Mr. Taylor, was promptly paid over as shown as ascertained.

HON. JOHN A. KANSON has been elected to Congress from Iowa, and of course vacates his late office of First Assistant Postmaster General, after having held that responsible post with great credit to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of the Government, for nearly two years. His talents and his experience will no doubt be of great service in all postal legislation, as well as in the discharge of other responsible public duties.

J. B. GREENELL, Esq., a Special Agent of the Department, has also been chosen a member of Congress from the same State. He will make a good man to put at the head of an investigating committee. He is used to ferreting out roguery, and withal, has other qualifications essential in an M. C. We congratulate him on his escape from the oppressive atmosphere of decoy letters and misty mail bags.

Sentence of E. O. Parker.

Erastus O. Parker, late postmaster at Monument, Mass., was, on the 25th instant, sentenced in the United States Circuit Court at Boston, to five years imprisonment, and to pay a moderate fine, the law imposing both, at the option of the Court.

Our readers will doubtless recollect something of the history of this interesting case, as published in the MAIL some time since. It relates to the pilfering from the mail at the Monument post office, of a valuable package, containing about \$44,000, nearly \$2,000 of which was in bank notes. It was on its way to the Suffolk Bank, Boston. Joseph S. Hewins, stage driver, was convicted about a year since, as principal in the robbery, and Parker was subsequently tried and convicted as an accomplice, his sentence having been delayed until now.

One of the main points relied upon at the trial of the latter, was the hand writing upon an envelope, within which Hewins received through the Monument post office, and by the hand of Parker acting as postmaster, a \$500 bank note, proved to have constituted a part of the lost package. Although strongly suspected by those engaged in the investigation, the fact of such suspicion had been kept from these parties, and wishing to realize on the large bill and yet fearing the possibility of its identity, the cunning (?) device was conceived of providing a supposed satisfactory way of accounting for its possession, if required, by having it apparently come through the mail from Boston, in an otherwise empty envelope, bearing the Boston post-mark. The fact that the money was going there originally, and the impression having, for a purpose of course, been given the guilty postmaster, that it was probably stolen at the Boston office, induced a belief that the operation would be at once safe and plausible.

Who could be safely entrusted with writing the desired address upon the envelope save one of the parties already in the ring? Parker was a fair penman, and pretty good at disguising his hand, though not able to cope in that respect with the skill and science of competent "experts" in hand-writing, as was clearly shown upon the trial.

If ever all the details of this world-be-shrewd manoeuvre come to light, it will be found that the postmaster believed too much in the "insecurity of the mails," as he had good reasons to do, to trust the \$500 bill out of his own or his accomplice's custody, and that when the envelope was dropped into the Boston office by a person with whom it was wholly safe to trust the important secret, it contained a blank piece of paper only, the chief object being to get the genuine Boston post-mark. This theory is fully sustained by the ragged appearance of the seal of the envelope, showing unmistakable signs of having been first opened for an exchange of contents on reaching the Monument post office, and re-gummed with no very great economy in the use of the glutinous substance, in which condition it continued, the second opening having been accomplished by tearing off the end of the envelope, and drawing out the rich contents, in presence of a friend, whose testimony, in case of any trouble, it might be important to have, to show that the money really came out of this envelope. There are other powerful circumstances favoring the above belief.

The most strenuous efforts were made by the friends and acquaintances of both Hewins and Parker, and by very able counsel, to save them. The majesty of the law has been vindicated, however, and punishment has followed. We hope it will be the means of saving others from yielding to temptation, and at the same time subserve the public interest by rendering post offices and the mails more and more secure in the transmission of correspondence.

Questions Answered.

Letters addressed to officers or soldiers, when forwarded, are subjected to the same rule as other correspondence, namely: If misent, they must be forwarded without extra postage; but if correctly sent, and a remailing is required for any cause, either by temporary absence or removal, an extra charge must be added, and collected on delivery.

We are asked if a postmaster has a right, under any circumstances, to tear the wrapper of transient newspapers or other printed matter, whether prepaid or otherwise, under a suspicion that such newspaper or package contains writing, or any improper enclosure.

Under the law, a postmaster has the right to remove a wrapper covering printed matter, but a fair construction confines such acts to cases where strong suspicions of fraud exist. It is better, even in such, to offer the party receiving the package to open it for inspection. The instructions (Sec. 135, P. O. Regulations) direct a careful examination of all such parcels, which can usually be done without removing wrappers, if left open at one end, as they should be. If they are not, full letter postage should be charged on mailing, or on delivery, if neglected at the mailing office.

Blank letter paper, in any quantity, must be charged at letter rates. Sheet music, one cent per ounce.

Weekly newspapers, sent by publishers to actual subscribers, are entitled to a free circulation only in the county in which they are printed and published.

Any WRITTEN word, date, figure, or letter, upon an otherwise printed circular, subjects it to letter postage.

An answer to the question about circulars will be found in the 120th and 121st sections of the Standing Regulations.

Secretary Seward has notified the public that all letters sent to the Department of State, addressed to the care of our ministers abroad, must hereafter be left unsealed—the privilege having been abused for disloyal purposes.

A registered package was mailed at the New York office a few days since, the postage on which, prepaid by stamps, amounted to \$143 48. It was addressed to London, and the contents were stated by the senders to be of the value of \$700,000.

Results of Carelessness.

A mercantile firm in this city, famous (in its own esteem) for promptness and precision in all things, had occasion recently to remit by mail, a letter, with valuable enclosures to the amount of \$25,000. Manchester, England, was the intended designation, but the memory of the writer of the address stopped short at Liverpool, and so did the aforesaid rich missive. "Due diligence" on the part of the postal authorities at Liverpool, failing to discover any such party as was named, the letter was returned to Washington, and then to the writer here, who, on its receipt, had to call a magistrate to administer the oath to his own eyes before he would believe them? There was Liverpool in unmistakable chirography, and Manchester was "nowhere." We hardly need add that astonishment and mortification did not constitute the entire damage.—Pecuniary inconveniences, sufficient to ruin some less able parties, was added to these, and we are inclined to think that somebody has ere this received an order for a supply of printed envelopes with the names of sundry English bankers plainly impressed thereon.

ANOTHER CASE.—\$10,000 "under cover," in negotiable paper, were intended to be sent to Fall River, Mass., and owing to the faithfulness of the New York clerks, in forwarding letters according to their address, the letter went as straight as the "Shore Line" could carry it, to Boston. Consequences not reported, but sorely vexatious, as we understand.

STILL ANOTHER.—A very respectable and careful (?) gentleman, residing in Newburgh, N. Y., desired to place in the possession of his married daughter at Yorkville, the handsome sum of \$50, and so he put it in a letter, and caused it to be placed in the letter box at the former post office. Its non-receipt raised a particular "miss" all round. The honesty of the young gentleman who posted it, and the postmaster and his clerks at the mailing office, were thoroughly established, in their own estimation, by the fact that a post bill of the right date, calling for one single rate letter, had been received at the Yorkville P. O. The postmaster there, in addition to the aid of an irreproachable character, had moreover the advantage of falling back upon an Irish servant girl, to whom his clerk insisted he had delivered a letter at about the time named. The girl's mistress was indignant at a mere inquiry as to the integrity of Bridget, declaring that her confidence in that young lady was greater than that which she reposed in some other people, even if they were government officials! The matter was reported to the Special Agent, who instituted inquiries into the antecedents of the domestic; and in the mean time a civil suit against the Yorkville P. M. was threatened by the loser, and things generally were becoming rather "mixed," when suddenly the letter turned up at the mailing office, returned from the Dead-Letter Office, plainly addressed to *Yonkers, N. Y.* Everybody concerned was of course very much relieved by this solution of the mystery, and it has been whispered that the absent-minded writer of the letter has suggested to the Yorkville P. M. the propriety of "taking something" at his expense. But our Yorkville friend insists upon it that he never takes anything—not even a letter.

WORSE STILL.—A letter was a few days since returned to New York from the Dead Letter Office, entirely destitute of any address whatever. On an examination at Washington, of the contents of this blank envelope, checks and drafts to the amount of \$1,800 were found, as also the evidence that the letter and valuables had been placed in the post office at Bloomington, Illinois, and were the property of Messrs. Clafin, Melan & Co., of this city. The Illinois official having no way of ascertaining who deposited the letter in his office, of course followed the rule, and invoked the aid of Mr. ZERLER, in tracing out the mystery. It is quite possible that a petition is on file at the Department ere this, for the removal of the aforesaid postmaster, and that some brother Special Agent has been expending his skill and ingenuity in efforts to detect him!

THE LAST.—We close—what may be called, in view of the very many curious blunders of correspondents—our homoeopathic batch of such cases which are constantly occurring.

A letter was posted in New York, November 5, 1861, plainly addressed as follows:

Mr. Myers,
North Galveston,
India.

The clerk here, into whose hands it fell, put it on its way rejoicing, (as he had a perfect right to do) for London, England, where it got into the custody of another "strict constructionist," who passed it on to Calcutta, India. Some official there endorsed upon it, "No such person or place here," and forthwith started it on its return to the city of Gotham, no doubt taking the original New York post mark as the guide. The unlucky missive has probably ere this found its way to Indiana, in which State there is a North Galveston.

Moral.—It is always the most safe way to omit abbreviations in writing the name of a State in a letter address, unless the town or city bears the same name, as for instance, New York. Then N. Y. would be better, otherwise the State being last named on the address, it might readily be sent to New York city.

ARREST.—Hiram D. Van Vleet, of Monroe County, Pennsylvania, has been bound over by the U. S. Commissioner, for trial, in the ann of \$2,000, for having fraudulently obtained certain letters from the post office at Easton, Penn., and forging a draft contained in one of the letters. Special Agent Row had charge of the investigation which led to this arrest.

Two mail—or rather female—carriers were arrested by our pickets near Fairfax Court House, Va., a short time since, and numerous letters for rebellion found in their possession.

Postmasters and the Mail.

We continue to receive from postmasters who are patrons of our paper, the most flattering acknowledgments of the favorable estimation in which the MAIL is held. These testimonials show how useful and convenient such a medium between the Department and its thousands of Deputy post masters, could be made under more favorable auspices. No one is more conscious of the fact that the enterprise is not up to the original design, than the publisher himself.—We have been disappointed among other things in the limited contributions in the way of suggestions and current information from experienced Special Agents, Route Agents, Post Masters and others. In post office experience, things are occurring daily, which should not be lost, the public record of which would add greatly to the general fund of postal information and often lead to most beneficial results, both to the Department and to the community. Will not our friends bear this in mind, especially those who have at heart the improvement of the mail service in its various branches.

We are happy to know that the chief officers of the Department are becoming more and more satisfied of the convenience and practical usefulness of such a sheet as this, when conducted with discretion and official intelligence, to which qualities the MAIL at present has no just claim, of course. We do "reckon," however, that we may have gone far enough in the right direction, to satisfy the government and the public that something could be done greatly to the advantage of all concerned, by the full development of the idea which originally brought the MAIL into existence.

We want to enlarge our limits, and improve our columns in various ways, and hope to do so one of these days, when among other things, the coast is clear for reaching Southern postmasters once more. We doubt not their postal supply has become ere this quite as meagre as that of other "necessaries of life." But it might as well be understood that "Confederate notes" will not be received for subscription to the MAIL.

MAIL SEPARATELY.—One of the most simple rules of the Department is constantly violated, in making up mails for distribution offices. In letter packages received at such offices, are found letters for delivery and for distribution all intermingled, included in the same post bill, and covered by the same wrapper. Such careless officials will see their error by reference to Section 46 of the Standing Regulations, which requires that letters for delivery and those for distribution should be enclosed in separate wrappers, and with separate bills.

One of the serious results of these inexcusable blunders, is the frequent delay of letters, not only for hours, but for days, in their final delivery, caused by a failure, in respect to letters to be remailed, to "connect" with departing mails. Long detentions are, in this way, liable to occur, where the offices addressed are served tri-weekly, semi-weekly, or weekly only, from the point of supply. The business routine of a large office is such that a letter once out of its proper course, is sometimes necessarily "hindered" in its progress, beyond the time required for its prompt transmission, had it been started originally on its right and legitimate track.

For instance, in the New York office, the first duty of the clerks who open the mails, is to separate the delivery from the distribution packages. If the mailing office has followed the rule, the packages of letters to be re-billed and sent forward, are once passed over to the mailing clerks, and the letters leave by the first out-going mail, which sometimes closes almost immediately. In the other case, they may not owing to the large number of delivery letters to be overhauled, be reached until too late for a "connection."

How would a postmaster or his clerk relish a like detention of his own private correspondence from such provoking causes as those to which we have referred to? An application of the golden rule—even so that gold is at so high a premium—is specially recommended to those who have the official direction of public or private correspondence.

SOLDIERS' VALUABLE LETTERS.—In answer to an inquiry or two addressed by us to the postmaster of Washington, D. C., respecting the numerous complaints of the loss of soldier's letters, he remarks that "Letters for officers and soldiers containing valuables, should always be registered, as in that case, they are delivered only on the written order of the person to whom addressed."

While on this subject, we will give, for the information of army correspondents, a list of the regiments comprising General Howard's Division, in which dis-"Orderly" Tanish was under arrest for robbing soldiers' letters entrusted to the care of the Division mail messenger. This may aid post masters and others in accounting for some lost letters of this class:

15th, 19th and 20th Mass. Vols., 24 New York Militia; 34th, 42d and 59th N. Y. Vols.; 69th, 71st, 72d and 106th Penn. Vols.; 1st Minn. and 7th Mich. Vols.; Company 1, 1st United States Artillery; Co's A, B and G, Rhode Island Battery.

SENTENCE OF POST OFFICE ROBBERS.—On the 29th ult, before the U. S. Circuit Court at Boston, Judge Clifford presiding, James Brown and John G. Clapp, *alias* Wilson, (whose arrest by Special Agent Ordway, on a charge of having robbed several post offices in the neighborhood of Boston we noticed in our last,) pleaded guilty to the charge, and were sentenced—the former to eight years in the state prison, and the latter to two years in Springfield jail. The Weymouth, South Braintree, Harrison Square, and Brookline offices had all received nocturnal visits from these gentlemen, who had also arranged their plans to pay their respects to several other offices, when Mr. Ordway's officious interference defeated their benevolent intentions. All the letters taken, except those from South Braintree, were recovered in a mutilated state, and forwarded to destination.

SAN FRANCISCO POST OFFICE.—The citizens of San Francisco, Cal., have done nobly so far, in contributing "aid and comfort" to the Union cause. The "Daily Morning Call" has a list of subscriptions to the Patriotic Relief Fund, to the amount of nearly \$10,000, which, added to former sums thus raised, gives a total of \$145,000!

In the first-mentioned sum, are included the following liberal offerings of Postmaster Parker and his Assistants:

S. H. Parker	..... \$150	A. G. Smith	..... \$25
Wm. H. Stevens	..... 75	W. P. Adams	..... 25
E. C. Palmer	..... 50	G. W. Chapp	..... 25
R. L. Taylor	..... 50	C. A. Yildem	..... 25
James Benson	..... 50	C. E. Pardee	..... 25
H. C. Squire	..... 50	L. F. Chubbuck	..... 25
C. A. Uhrig	..... 30	T. G. McCallan	..... 25
C. S. Kussen	..... 30	Robert T. Polk	..... 30
W. A. Wheeler	..... 30	Caswell	..... 30
F. E. Dyer	..... 30		
A. C. Stevens	..... 25		\$805

We will take this occasion to say that, so far as we can judge by the manner in which the San Francisco mails coming to New York are made up, and from other reliable indications and reports, that post office has never been under better or more satisfactory management.—Among the thousands of correspondents in this section, who send letters to and receive them from that city, we scarcely ever hear a complaint either of a failure or delay. We will add that, in relation to a duty which has of late become especially important, that of distinct post-marking and faithful cancellation of postage stamps upon letters, San Francisco is far in advance of many of the large offices. An examination of an immense mail, recently received from that city, exhibited unusual official fidelity in respect to the requirements of the Department on this subject.

EXAMINE YOUR POSTAGE STAMPS.—It is surprising what carelessness, or rather recklessness, everywhere prevails in the matter of postage stamps. They are freely received by most people, not only without examination, beyond, perhaps, a mere glance at the denomination but when put up in small envelopes, sums of twenty-five and fifty cents are received for the sum endorsed, without inspection or counting. The success of these petty swindlers encourages young and old rascals to possess themselves of stamps, before used upon letters, and the Government or correspondents, or both, must suffer when, honestly or dishonestly, these worthless stamps find their way upon letters the second time.

If postage stamps must circulate as change, all classes are interested in refusing those which are mutilated or much soiled. And it is the duty of postmasters to see that all which pass through their offices on letters, are badly soiled, beyond "redemption."

On every account, we therefore advise the public to be on their guard, and examine stamps offered them with at least as much scrutiny as they exercise in taking bank notes.

It would also curtail the facilities for this species of cheating, if business-men and others would destroy, or otherwise put out of reach, their old letters and envelopes received by mail.

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING.—In attaching postage stamps to letters, correspondents should be careful to place them on the upper right-hand corner of the envelope, leaving a margin of a sixteenth of an inch above and also on the right of the stamp. Carelessness in this particular results in much embarrassment in the process of stamping, especially in large post offices, while it is found that even this comparatively trifling matter proves the most formidable obstacle in adapting machinery to post-marking and canceling—the want of uniformity in the precise locality of the postage stamp preventing the required dispatch, even in an otherwise successful machine.

Above all things, don't put your stamp on the back of the letter, which is sometimes done, as, in the hurry of mailing, the evidence of preparation is liable to be overlooked, and the letter to be "held for postage," and possibly perform a trip to the postal cemetery at Washington. In addressing letters, leave ample space on the top of the envelope to allow room for the post-mark, without interfering with the superscription, which is often rendered illegible by unavoidable stamping over it, in whole or in part.

U. S. STAMP DUTIES AND TAXES.—Messrs. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, 306 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, have just issued a neat card, containing a list of "Stamp Duties" imposed by the Act of 1862, which Act went into effect on the 1st of October. The card will be found very convenient for reference by all, and should be at the side of every storekeeper, merchant, manufacturer, broker, banker, attorney, or any man of business, as it shows at a glance the amount of stamp duty or tax to be paid on everything in every-day business, as well as the penalties of the law, and fines for trying to evade each and every one of the Stamp Taxes imposed by Congress. It will save a world of trouble to every storekeeper and business man to have a copy for reference at his side. It has been carefully prepared from the official documents at Washington, and copyrighted by a noted member of the Philadelphia bar. Price Ten Cents a copy, or three copies for Twenty-five cents; or twenty-five copies for One Dollar and Seventy-five Cents; or, fifty copies for Three Dollars; or one hundred copies for Five Dollars. Copies will be sent per mail everywhere by the publishers on receipt of the price.

HONORABLY ACQUITTED.—Mr. Joseph C. Hayes, late postmaster at Meadville, Pa., tried on a charge preferred by S. Newton Pelton, of unlawfully opening letters, was, on the 29th ult, before the U. S. District Court at Pittsburgh, honorably acquitted.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

BOSTON POST OFFICE.—The amount of postage stamps and stamped envelopes sold in the Boston office during the quarter ending Sept. 30th, 1862, is \$135,000.

Number of letters received for delivery and distribution, about 1,000,000.

Letters sent, 706,779.

Letters delivered by carriers, 416,455. News papers do, 33,202.

Amount of postage on foreign letters received, \$20,403.00. Foreign Letters sent, \$15,169.67.

We are in the receipt of lots of complimentary notices of the Mail, from post masters and others. We can only now and then give an extract or two as specimens. Here is one from one of the best of the Long Island post masters:

"I certainly consider the Mail one of the indispensable assistants to a post master. Indeed I see not how I could decide points that frequently arise, while in the discharge of my official duties, had I not at hand your valuable paper. With it I always feel safe."

Here is another lift from the Granite State, in the shape of an extract from a postmaster's letter:

"I entered upon the duties of P. M., one year ago, and your paper has been a great help to me in my official capacity, worth many times its cost, and regard it as a desirable paper for all business men, as it contains much information they should be possessed of. It shall be a monthly visitor, so long as I remain my present position. E. J. D., P. M."

A "model postmaster" in a large post office in Racine Co., Wisconsin, sends us the following gratifying compliment for the Mail:

"I enclose you one dollar for another year's subscription to the 'Mail.' I consider each number of your paper worth the cost of a year to any postmaster, and were it taken more generally, and 'inwardly digested,' the public, as well as P. O. officials, would find much to their edification and instruction.

The public sadly need to be educated upon postal matters. Exclusively devoted to this, I wish it were possible to place a copy of the 'Mail' in every household. I have frequently taken the liberty of reproducing some of your valuable 'Items' in the columns of our local press. Were it done oftener, the public would be benefitted.

I remain
Yours, very respectfully,
JOHN TAPLEY, P. M.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster-General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices during the month of October:—

ESTABLISHED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Alder Brook	Fraclin	N. Y.
Arbella	Lancaster	Pa.
Arnold Store	Anne Arundel	Md.
Beaver Creek	Fremont	Col. T.
Bingham	Huron	Mich.
Camp Fork	Crawford	Ind.
Carlton	Barry	Mich.
Cherry Grove	Bedford	Pa.
Constantinople	Jasper	Ill.
Coverdale	Sussex	Del.
Dary's Store	Montgomery	Md.
East Coventry	Orleans	Vt.
El Paso	Fernon	Col. T.
Emmaville	Fulton	Pa.
Forest Home	Almaden	Cal.
Gravel Road	Cape Girardeau	Mo.
Haven	Ind.	Ind.
Kipp's Corners	Genesee	Mich.
McKnight	Butler	Pa.
Marion Centre	Marion	Kan.
Minden	Saunders	Mich.
Mineral Point	Steele	Mno.
Mortua	Steele	Mno.
Muncie	Vernon	Wis.
North Byron	Kent	Mich.
Oak Hill	Oakland	Mich.
Patterson's Mill	Lonia	Mich.
Pioneer	Mecosta	Mich.
Plum Grove	Atchison	Kan.
Plum Point	Calvert	Md.
Portsmouth Grove	Newport	R. I.
Ridgely	Bedford	Pa.
Sidling Hill	Fulton	Pa.
Sidney	Montcalm	Mich.
Tyre	Sanilac	Mich.
Virginia	Neb. T.	Neb. T.

*Re-established.

DISCONTINUED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Alvan	Jefferson	Pa.
Amloch	Contra Costa	Cal.
Atlanta	Harris	Mo.
Belle Haven	Accomack	Va.
Big Tavern	Miller	Mo.
Boena Vista	Tuscarawas	Ohio.
Caernarvon	Perry	Pa.
Chinoctague	Accomack	Va.
Cold Spring	Allen	Kan.
Collinsville	Scioto	Cal.
Corning	Adams	Iowa.
Danbury	Ottawa	Ohio.
Dowwood Grove	Newport	Mo.
Ellsworth	Doddridge	Va.
Elvira	Clinton	Iowa.
Farm	Clay	Ind.
Farmington	Jefferson	Pa.
Haddock	Northampton	Va.
Hollister	Livingston	Mich.
Hortown	Accomack	Va.
Hyrum	Cache	Utah.
Jefferson	Jefferson	Pa.
Jeikins' Bridge	Accomack	Va.
Millhouses	Decatur	N. Y.
North Gouverneur	St. Lawrence	N. Y.
Oak Harbor	Island	Mich.
Ottawa Centre	Ottawa	Mich.
Prattville	Vinton	Ohio.
Rothand	Barry	Mich.
San Francisco	Carver	Mich.
Chilver Street	Ringgold	Iowa.
Sasley's Grove	Linn	Iowa.
Somerset	Monroe	Mich.
Warm Springs	Perry	Pa.
Waterdown	Tuscola	Mich.
Yolo Centre	Yolo	Cal.

NAMES CHANGED.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Forfax	Linn	Iowa.
Hagersville	Richland	Ohio.
N. W. Whitehall	Lehigh	Pa.
Pungoesburg	Accomack	Va.
Weaversville	Newaygo	Mich.
Wood's Ferry	San Joaquin	Cal.

Female Postmasters Appointed.
Accomack C. H. Accomack, Va. Miss Emma Massey
Calwell's Prairie, Indiana, Wis. Mrs. Larina Cooper.
Coffee Clay, Ind. Miss Melissa D. Huggate.
Meredith's Tavern, Marion, Va. Mrs. Matilda Carter.
Millersburg, Mercer, Ill. Mrs. Rebecca C. Green.
Newburn, Hancock, Ind. Rebecca Dunlap.
Newbury, Merrimack, N. H. Mrs. Mary Lent.
Old Town, Penobscot, Me. Mrs. Susan E. Pearson.
South Jackson, Jackson, Mich. Mrs. Lucy J. Snyder.

Presidential Appointment.

Meadville, Crawford, Pa. Clinton Callan

To our Subscribers.

By the printed terms of this paper, the subscription price (\$1) is made payable in advance. We find that the second volume has now expired, and yet, in a majority of cases, payment is still due. Our subscribers are so scattered, that it would relieve us of considerable trouble if they would remit without further notice, when they will be promptly credited on our books, and receipts sent, if desired.

If a postmaster receives an envelope marked "free" on the outside, but containing an unpaid letter, with a request that it should be delivered to the party addressed, full postage must be collected, according to the weight of the entire original package. If enclosed in a free letter relating to post office business, payment on the private letter only, is to be demanded, on delivery. The practice of thus enclosing letters to postmasters, excepting on strictly official business, is, of course wrong, and when indulged in by postmasters or their assistants, should be reported to the Department.

A postmaster writes us thus:—"The question I wish to have settled is, whether postmasters should not detain all transient printed matter received, not prepaid by stamps."

Such matter should be properly retained at the receiving office, and the postage collected in money, on delivery.

A postmaster is not required to exchange postage stamps of one denomination for those of another. When, however, he can do so without inconvenience, it is proper that he should make such exchanges as an accommodation, though it cannot be demanded of him as a right.

Postmasters should send to the Department, at the close of each quarter, the registered stamp and stamped envelope bills (originals) received during the quarter. The return bills are of course sent to the office from which the package is received, as soon as examined, and compared with the originals.

Letter paper is chargeable with letter postage, 3 cents per half ounce. Photographic paper (which is paper prepared for the use of short-hand writers) is chargeable with postage at the rate of one cent per ounce.

When newspaper postage has been paid quarterly in advance, and the subscriber changes his residence before the expiration of such quarter, it is the duty of said subscriber to notify the publisher of such change of residence, and have the paper sent direct to his new residence, from the office of publication. He must also obtain the certificate of the postmaster at the office where the postage was paid, that the full quarter's postage has been so paid at such office. Then the postmaster at the office of delivery may deliver the paper to the end of the quarter without further charge. Should he fail to pursue this course, and the paper have to be remailed from his former residence, a new postage must be charged for forwarding. In which case a full quarter's postage must be paid, or the full rate collected upon the delivery of each paper, unless the full rate for the fractional quarter is paid in a single sum.

Under the provisions of the 11th section of the act of Feb. 27, 1861, persons known as regular news-dealers may receive by mail such quantities of newspapers or periodicals as they may require, and pay the postage thereon as they may be received, at the same rates as regular subscribers to such publications.

By the 123d standing instruction of the Department regular news-dealers may mail newspapers and periodicals to bona fide subscribers in the same manner and with the same privileges as if sent direct from the office of publication; but parties not engaged as regular news-dealers, or as publishers, have no right to mail papers not prepaid. But the rate of postage to be collected in such case is the same as if the matter were first mailed at the place of publication.

By the 139th standing instruction of the Department, it is the duty of the postmaster at the mailing office, as well as at the office of delivery, whenever practicable, carefully to examine all printed matter, in order to see that it is charged with the proper rate of postage, and to detect fraud; but this should be done without breaking open the wrapper. Unless papers are done up, as required by the act of 1852, in such manner that their contents may be determined without removing the wrapper, letter postage should be charged, and if not paid at the mailing office, or at the office of delivery, the postmaster of the latter office should return the package to the mailing office, to prosecute for the penalty of five dollars, provided for by the 30th section of the act of 1825: see 128th standing instructions.

Postmasters have no right to give credit for postage; if credit has been given, it is at their own risk, and they must personally account for the amount as if prepaid.

Unless the postage upon newspapers is paid quarterly or yearly in advance, the full rate should be collected upon each paper as delivered.

Letters received from the Dead-Letter Office, the writers of which cannot be found, are to be returned to the Department in the same manner, and entered on the same bill, as other dead letters.

Letters charged with unpaid postage, forwarded to another office by request, should be charged in the quarterly account as "letters mis-sent and forwarded."

LIST OF PRICES OF STAMPED ENVELOPES

No. 1 Note size, 3 cent, \$0 79 per pkg. of 25, or \$3 16 per 100.
No. 2, Letter size, 3 cent, \$0 90 per pkg. of 25, or \$3 18 per 100.
No. 3, Letter size, 10 cent, \$2 55 per pkg. of 25, or \$10 15 per 100.
No. 4, Letter size, 6 cent, \$1 50 per pkg. of 25, or \$6 24 per 100.
No. 5, Letter size, 1 cent, \$0 26 per pkg. of 25, or \$1 12 per 100.
No. 6, Letter size, 4 cent, \$1 65 per pkg. of 25, or \$4 19 per 100.
No. 3, Official size, 20 cent, \$5 11 per pkg. of 25, or \$20 44 per 100.
No. 3, Official size, 21 cent, \$5 11 per pkg. of 25, or \$20 44 per 100.
No. 3, Official size, 40 cent, \$10 11 per pkg. of 25, or \$40 44 per 100.

TIME OF CLOSING MAILS AT THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE.

NORTH.—5 A. M., and 3 P. M., by way of Hudson River and Central Railroad to Buffalo and Canada.
EAST.—5 A. M., and 4 P. M., and 10 P. M.
SOUTH.—5 A. M., 4 P. M., and 10 P. M. (Railroad) and 4 P. M. (Fall River Steamboat).
WEST.—5 A. M., and 3 P. M., by Erie Railroad, via Dunkirk, Cincinnati, &c.

MAILS ARE DUE AT NEW YORK POST OFFICE.

NORTH.—Due 1 P. M., and 10 P. M.
SOUTH.—Due 4 30 A. M.; 1 30 P. M.; 6 30 P. M., and 10 40 P. M.
EAST.—Due (Steamboat) 7 A. M.; Railroad (way mail) 10 45 A. M.; (Boston Express) 5 30 A. M.; 5 30 P. M., and 12 Midnight.
WEST.—Due 1 P. M., and 10 30 P. M.

TEN YEARS AMONG THE MAIL BAGS.

Apply for Copies of this work, to the Editor of the MAIL. Price \$1.00, and sent postage paid.

IMPORTANT TABLE.

SHOWING THE DIFFERENCE IN ROUTES, TIME REQUIRED, AND DATES OF DEPARTURE FROM AND ARRIVAL AT LONDON, OF CHINA AND INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND OTHER MAILS.

Country.	Route.	Days.	Hours.	Minutes.
Australia	via San Francisco	10th and 11th	30th	30th
China	via Hong Kong	10th and 11th	30th	30th
India	via Ceylon	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Japan	via Yokohama	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Manila	via Cebu	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Philippines	via Cebu	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Siam	via Bangkok	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Southern Ocean	via Cape of Good Hope	10th and 11th	30th	30th
South America	via Rio de Janeiro	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Spain	via Cadiz	10th and 11th	30th	30th
France	via Havre	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Germany	via Bremen	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Italy	via Genoa	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Sweden	via Stockholm	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Norway	via Christiania	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Denmark	via Copenhagen	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Prussia	via Berlin	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Russia	via St. Petersburg	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Poland	via Warsaw	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Austria	via Vienna	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Hungary	via Pest	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Prague	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Saxony	via Dresden	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Silesia	via Breslau	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Prussia	via Königsberg	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Poland	via Lodz	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Brno	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Saxony	via Leipzig	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Silesia	via Katowice	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Prussia	via Poznan	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Poland	via Gdansk	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Olomouc	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Saxony	via Chemnitz	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Silesia	via Wroclaw	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Prussia	via Danzig	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Poland	via Poznan	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Brno	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Saxony	via Leipzig	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Silesia	via Katowice	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Prussia	via Poznan	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Poland	via Gdansk	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Olomouc	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Saxony	via Chemnitz	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Silesia	via Wroclaw	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Prussia	via Danzig	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Poland	via Poznan	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Brno	10th and 11th	30th	30th
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Poland	via Poznan	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Brno	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Saxony	via Leipzig	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Silesia	via Katowice	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Prussia	via Poznan	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Poland	via Gdansk	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Olomouc	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Saxony	via Chemnitz	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Silesia	via Wroclaw	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Prussia	via Danzig	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Poland	via Poznan	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Brno	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Saxony	via Leipzig	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Silesia	via Katowice	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Prussia	via Poznan	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Poland	via Gdansk	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Czechia	via Olomouc	10th and 11th	30th	30th
Saxony	via Chemnitz	10th and 11th	30th	30th

UNITED STATES MAIL.

Postmaster General's Report.

We publish below a synopsis of the annual Report of the Postmaster General:

The Report for this year exhibits a very healthy financial condition of the Post-office Department, and shows it to be thoroughly impregnated with the spirit of improvement. The efficiency of the service has been maintained at the highest point, accompanied by a great diminution of expenditures. The gross revenues of the Department for this fiscal year, including the Treasury credit for free mail matter, and a small amount appropriated for the relief of individuals, was \$9,012,549 56. The expenditures for the same year amounted to \$11,125,364 13. The regular postal revenue for 1862 is only \$49,470 50 less than it was for the fiscal year 1861, during a large part of which year revenue was paid in from all the States of the Union. This fact shows a large increase in the correspondence of the loyal States. While the revenues have been so nearly sustained at the highest standard, the expenses have been largely reduced. For the preceding year the expenditures were \$2,481,394 98 greater than last year. The following comparisons of figures are interesting:

Expenditures for 1861 for service in all the States, \$4,854,772 89; revenues for the same year, \$9,218,067 70; deficiency, \$5,556,705 49. Expenditures for 1861, (service interrupted in 1861,) \$13,606,759 11; gross revenues for 1861, (service interrupted in 1861,) \$9,049,996 40; deficiency, \$4,557,462 71. Expenditures for 1862, \$11,125,364 13; revenues for 1862, \$9,012,549 56; deficiency, \$2,112,814 57; reduction of expenditures as compared with 1860, \$3,749,498; reduction of expenditures as compared with 1861, \$2,481,394.

The Department has not been for many years so nearly self-sustaining. This result is largely owing to the suspension of postal expenditures in the South, which were greatly in excess of postal receipts, but not alone to that. A revision of all discretionary expenses has been made, and large reductions ordered. The pay of agents has been regraded and equalized. Economy has been re-established. In the larger offices, where it was found incompetent, wherever found in official position, has been removed, and an effort made to adopt a standard of merit and administrative efficiency, in lieu of other and inferior motives for appointment. The Postmaster General expresses his determination to adhere to this course.

The number of postage stamps issued to Postmasters during the year, was 7,073,188. The value of letter envelopes was \$733,253 50. The value of stamped newspaper wrappers, \$23,643 50; increase of issue over 1861, \$1,144,888 27. The total value sold was \$6,910,131 59.

The increasing demand on the part of the public for the stamped newspaper wrappers, shows that their introduction has satisfied a public demand, and promoted the convenience of correspondents.

In the first quarter of the current year, ending Sept. 30, the number of stamps issued to Postmasters was 194,000,000—their calls for about 200,000,000, which would have been nearly sufficient to meet the demand for a year. This extraordinary demand arose from the temporary use of these stamps as a currency by the public, in lieu of the smaller denominations of specie and coin, and the introduction of the so-called postal currency.

The difference between the value of stamps sold and stamps canceled in the fiscal year, 1862, shows \$733,379 96, as the amount in the hands of purchasers on the 1st of July, 1862.

The whole number of dead letters received and examined during the year is 2,282,049, which is \$67,000 less than in the previous year. The whole number of undeliverable letters sent out by the dead letter office was 51,239. Many interesting details are given in the report touching the operations of this office. Out of 21,493 cases where causes of non-delivery were ascertained, only 225 were attributable to the fault of postmasters; 522 letters had no address whatever.

Congress, at its first session, passed an Act authorizing the employment of twenty-five additional clerks to facilitate the return of dead letters to their writers, with the expectation that the receipts of postage thereon would cover the appropriation of \$20,000 for their compensation. The result thus far shows that an excess of revenue therefrom over the expenses has accrued to the amount of several thousand dollars.

The whole number of post-offices in the United States remaining established on the 30th of June, 1862, was 25,375, of which there were 19 in the loyal States and Districts in 1862, and the insurrectionary States and districts there were 8,302. The net increase in the established offices over last year was 121. The number of cases acted upon by the appointment office during the year was 7,755. The total postage accruing on United States and European mails during the year amounts to \$1,144,995 82, being a reduction of the amount of the previous year of \$217,940 88. Of the total amount collected in the excess collected in the United States was \$212,607 36, which constitutes the balance paid to the several foreign Departments, the cost of exchange being defrayed by the United States. The Postmaster General objects to this cost as inequitable, and proposes, if possible, to relieve the Department from this burden.

The Postmaster General has made special efforts to relieve the foreign correspondence of the country from its complexity now so embarrassing alike to correspondents and to postal officers. Separate negotiations have been found inadequate to secure simple and satisfactory arrangements. He therefore opened a correspondence in August last, through the Department of State, with foreign administrations, proposing a convention of postal representatives at some convenient point to consider the enumerated difficulties and the means of remedying them.

Several replies have been received from the various Governments, and all are favorable and agree to the project. This country, comprising emigrants from almost every civilized nation, is especially interested in the subject proposed to be brought before this Conference. It is a species of postal improvement requiring the establishment of greater uniformity and some common principle of arrangement, and is connected with our prosperous commercial intercourse with other countries.

The mail letters, which went into effect on the 1st of July last, in the Western Division, and were effected on such favorable terms, compared with the previous letters, that a reduction of expenditure resulted to the Government of \$331,000. At the same time the length of the routes was increased by 159 miles, with an annual increase of transportation of 74,423 miles. Notwithstanding this increase of service, the net saving is over nine per cent, as compared with the previous term.

The total annual cost of the internal service, in operation on the 30th of June last, was \$5,553,534, to which add the cost of the various agencies, routes and local messengers, etc., etc., \$460,630 92, and the cost of the service at that date is \$6,314,464 92, which includes \$1,000,000 for the Overland Mail route, not before charged upon the revenues of this Department.

The saving in the lettings of the West to July, 1862, is attributed to a strict adherence to

the law of 1845 authorizing what is known as star bids.

The report renews the recommendation for codifying all the postal laws, and hopes it may be done at this session.

Among the improvements under consideration by the Postmaster-General is that of embossing postage stamps on business and other envelopes supplied for that purpose by persons desiring to furnish their own designs. It is believed that this will largely increase the use of stamped envelopes in lieu of stamps, which is an object of great importance to the Department.

He also discourages the use of the mails for transmitting money, and speaks favorably of a limited money order system, and offers an amendment to the registry system by which a return receipt shall be sent to the dispatching party as evidence of the fact and date of delivery of his package. He also proposes to abolish many of the discriminating rates of postage now existing, approximating, as far as possible, to uniformity, and increasing the efficiency and extent of the delivery and collection of letters by carriers in cities.

The attention of the public is called to the great importance of good postal officers for a successful administration of this Department. If the Postmasters and their clerks are selected without chief reference to their efficiency and personal fitness, no amount of good legislation will secure public satisfaction. An energetic, faithful and efficient Postmaster, devoted to the interests of the public service, should be retained as long as he illustrates those qualities in his administration of the office. He attributes the success of the English system largely to the permanent character of their officers, and their familiarity with the laws and regulations. He regrets the extent to which other motives to appointments have prevailed in this country. He urges a return to the old standard of honesty, capability and fidelity, and anticipates more public satisfaction and administrative success from the adoption of such a principle than from any other single act of reform. He uses this language:

"It is my intention to adhere firmly to my determination to displace incompetency and indifference wherever found in official position under my control, without any discrimination in favor of appointments I may have made under misformation of facts."

The document, as a whole, will be read with unusual interest, and contains numerous suggestions of great importance to this branch of the public service.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1862.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

We have delayed the issue of this number of the Mail from several unavoidable causes, which, we hope, will not again occur.

The attention of postmasters, and of our readers generally, is called to the important article in another column, entitled "The Redemption of Postage Stamps."

Report of the Postmaster General.

On this page will be found an abstract of the Annual Report of the Postmaster General, which we regret that our space forbids us to publish, at this time, entire. It is one of the most able and satisfactory documents ever issued from the Department; and while its statistics show that, in a financial point, the present affairs of the Department are in favorable contrast with those of any other period since its establishment, and are evidence of the prudent and economical administration of its Chief, the important reforms and improvements suggested, show that it is his desire and intention to spare no effort, by the introduction of new features, and the removal of old abuses and hindrances, to increase the efficiency of his Department in every direction. We trust that Congress will lend him its support, and second his efforts by every means in its power.

We are especially gratified by the manner in which Mr Blair treats the important subject of "rotation in office," as connected with the postal service, and the system of appointments on improper grounds. The views expressed by him on this matter, must meet the approval of all who desire the inauguration of a reform, the necessity for which has long been felt, and the effect of which would be a vast increase of the usefulness and efficiency of the Department. It is to be hoped that the Postmaster General's action in calling attention to this subject, will not be without important results.

Hon. Alexander W. Randall,

The new First Assistant Postmaster General, whose appointment we noticed briefly in our last, is a native of Central New York, from whence, several years since, he removed to Wisconsin, where he entered upon the practice of the law. He soon became prominent in his profession, and was ere long called from the bar to the bench occupying the position of Circuit Judge, which he filled with ability, until nominated for the Chief Magistracy of the State, to which office he was twice elected. During the present National Administration he was appointed United States Minister to Rome, where he remained for more than a year, representing his government at the Papal Court with entire satisfaction. On his return, he was selected for the important post of First Assistant Postmaster General, and judging from the talent already displayed by him as a lawyer, judge, governor, and diplomat, we can safely predict for him an equally successful career in his new path of official duty.

The Redemption of Postage Stamps.

Under the direction of the Postmaster General, the redemption of postage stamps will commence at the New York Post Office within a few days, as soon as postmaster Wakemans has perfected the necessary arrangements. The following rules, substantially, will be adopted and adhered to, in carrying out the instructions of the Department:

1. Parties presenting postage stamps for redemption, must do so on condition that such as may satisfactorily appear to have been used for prepaying postage, are to be rejected and destroyed.

2. The stamps are to be separated by the owner, according to the different denominations, and upon these small parcels must be marked the amount of each parcel—and then the entire lot are to be placed in one envelope or wrapper, and the aggregate value claimed, endorsed thereon, together with the name and residence, or place of business, of the said owner or owners. But one deposit will be allowed by or from the same party, firm or association. The parcels, as received, will be numbered regularly, and a check or receipt, with the corresponding number and name, will be given to the applicant.

3. Packages will be registered in the order of reception. The stamps enclosed will be carefully examined, and the value of the good ones noted upon the envelopes.

4. The progress of the work will be advertised by posting at the post office, daily, the numbers ready for redemption.

5. Owners will then make application, and will receive their respective payments (on surrendering the receipts) in government notes or postage currency.

6. Lots of stamps amounting to sums under five dollars, will be counted and redeemed on presentation, but they can be left on deposit if preferred.

7. Fresh stamps will not be redeemed, the redemption being confined, exclusively to those which have been used and circulated as currency.

8. The redemption of postage stamps will take place only at certain post offices designated therefor by the Postmaster General, nor will they be redeemed, in any case whatever unless they shall have been presented at such post office within thirty days after the postmaster thereof has given public notice of his readiness to redeem them.

The 6th rule above, particularly refers to the New York Post Office, the arrangement at other offices, being left optional with the several postmasters.

Some time will necessarily be required to examine with proper care the stamps presented for redemption and it may also happen that further delay will occur at some post offices from the necessity for awaiting the accumulation of funds. For such reasons the actual redemption cannot in all cases take place within the period of thirty days fixed for receiving applications; but postmasters will redeem at the earliest day practicable.

The following post offices are designated by the Postmaster General as those at which postage stamps are to be presented for redemption:—

Augusta, Maine.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Potterland, "	Wilmington, Del.
Concord, N. H.	Baltimore, Md.
Portsmouth, "	Washington, D. C.
Boston, Mass.	Cincinnati, O.
New Bedford, Mass.	Cleveland, "
Lowell, "	Columbus, "
Salem, "	Zanesville, "
Worcester, "	Louisville, Ky.
Springfield, "	Lexington, "
Providence, R. I.	Indianapolis, Ind.
Hartford, Ct.	Lafayette, "
New Haven, Ct.	Laporte, "
Albany, N. Y.	Peoria, Ill.
Utica, "	Quincy, "
Elmira, "	Springfield, Ills.
Syracuse, "	Chicago, "
Rochester, "	Detroit, Mich.
Buffalo, "	Kalamazoo, Mich.
Ithaca, "	Lansing, "
Lockport, "	Adrian, "
Troy, "	Milwaukee, Wisc.
Oswego, "	Madison, "
Watson, Vt.	Racine, "
Montpelier, "	St. Paul, Minn.
Newark, N. J.	St. Louis, Mo.
Philadelphia, Pa.	St. Joseph, "
Harrisburg, "	

THE PAPIER-MACHE DOG.—It is well known that, under the pretence of employing old postage stamps in the manufacture of papier-maché, quantities of them are advertised for through the public newspapers, both in the United States and Canada, by which innocent parties, and generally for worthy and benevolent purposes, are led to make the most strenuous exertions in collecting together stamps, which have already performed their legitimate office in the prepayment of postage. It is more than likely that, when once in the hands of these advertising adventurers, such stamps, or as many of them as can be made to pass muster, are put in circulation, or retained, to be offered for redemption by the Government. There is reason to believe that this business of stamp-collecting is practised in many cities and villages, and in some cases even clergymen and Sabbath-school teachers have been the chief agents and abettors, entirely innocent, of course, of any fraudulent designs.

The law of Congress on this subject, prescribes severe penalties for the collection of old stamps, with a view to their second use, or final exchange or sale. No doubt ignorance of its provisions is the explanation of the illegal course pursued by so many worthy individuals, who, of course, have been governed by the best of motives, but who, it is feared, have innocently aided the dishonest schemes of others.

In one instance, recently, prominent members of a religious society in Western New York, attracted by the liberal offers of the papier-maché swindlers, set about gathering old stamps to an amount required for the painting of their church edifice. Judge of their surprise, when an Agent of the Post Office Department paid

them a visit, and took possession of thirty thousand stamps in the hands of the church warden!

Postmasters are urged to exercise the utmost vigilance in ascertaining and reporting to the Department, every instance which may come to their knowledge, where parties are engaged in gathering together, for any purpose, second-hand postage stamps. In addition to this, and as a still greater protection against fraud, they should not allow a stamp to leave their office upon a letter, until it has been thoroughly cancelled.

Postage Envelopes and Stamps.

The following article, in reference to a contemplated plan for the more general use of stamped envelopes in the prepayment of letter postage, was prepared for publication in the Mail for October, but was unavoidably omitted.

Postage stamped envelopes were first introduced in this country in the year 1853, and although offered at a price far below that of the ordinary envelope of the trade, they do not as yet seem to be justly appreciated by the public.

There has been but slight variation in the number of stamped envelopes issued annually, in 1854 it amounted to 55,138,600. In 1856, 33,755,150. In 1858 to 30,731,215. In 1861, to 20,027,300, the latter being less than the per cent. of the issue of separate postage stamps, which increased from fifty-five millions in 1851 to two hundred and eleven millions in 1861.

The greater cheapness of government envelopes, as compared with those of the trade, is generally overlooked, because the purchaser of the former is required to pay the additional charge of the postage.

One hundred stamped envelopes are sold for three dollars and eighteen cents, while the same number of plain ones of similar quality may be procured for about forty cents. But to this sum must be added three dollars, the value of the postage stamps which must be affixed to such envelopes before they can be used in the mail, thus making 100 letters cost \$3,40, or twenty-two cents more than if covered by government envelopes. Hence it appears that the persons who make use of unstamped envelopes, pay for them about one hundred per cent. more than if they employed stamped envelopes.

The number of separate postage stamps issued during the year ending 30th June, 1861, as above stated, was upwards of two hundred millions. Assuming that a like number of unstamped envelopes were used for letters, at thirty six cents per hundred, the cost thereof would have been \$72,000, whereas the government envelopes would have cost the consumer but \$36,000.

Hence a sum equal to the difference of these amounts, viz: \$36,000, may be considered as actually lost to the public, which is owing in a great degree to the want of proper appreciation of the advantage of the stamped envelope.

Objection is not unfrequently made to the government envelope, on account of either its form, size or quality, or because of the danger of losing both the envelope and postage thereon, should it be misdirected or otherwise accidentally defaced.

Such objections the Postmaster General has determined, if possible, to remove, and to this end he proposes to armage for embossing, under proper restrictions, the postage stamp on any envelopes that may be offered for that purpose by Stationers, Bankers, Merchants, or other business men. Such parties will thus be enabled to procure stamped envelopes of form and quality adapted to their own tastes, which are now so varied that they cannot be anticipated by the P. O. Department. It is also believed that varieties of stamped envelopes, suited to the wants of their customers—making such envelopes, equally with the ordinary unstamped article, a regular portion of stock in trade.

It is deemed expedient, however, as a precaution against fraud, that no one be permitted to enter into such trade without having first obtained from the Postmaster General a regular license for that purpose, and that all private parties designing to have their own envelopes stamped, must be satisfactorily shown to be of good standing, and be required to have their names printed on the envelopes. They will then, on payment of the postage, obtain a permit to have the work done by the government contractor for stamped envelopes at New York.

The P. M. General considers the use of the stamped envelope more advantageous to the Department than that of separate stamps, as the address of the former prevents them from being used a second time, while the latter may be so used if postmasters neglect the duty of cancelling them.

To the public also they afford advantages, in addition to those arising from cheapness, in that they are more convenient, saving the trouble and delay of attaching separate stamps, which are liable to be removed, causing letters to be detained for postage.

The objection to stamped envelopes, that the postage is lost in case of misdirection, may be removed by allowing postmasters, under certain rules prescribed by the Postmaster General, to redeem damaged envelopes.

The details for carrying out the above changes, may be altered somewhat, as they have not yet been definitely arranged.

"Rotation in Office."

In another part of this paper will be found a communication from a correspondent on the subject of "Politics and the Post Office," in which the writer gives his views as to the results of rotation in office, and the practice of political appointments in post offices, with the probable effects of a reform in this particular. His ideas are expressed with force and clearness, and we would recommend the article to the perusal of our readers. Since it was in type, the Annual Report of the Postmaster General has appeared, of which the same topic forms a prominent and important feature, and in which a somewhat similar view is taken of the matter, and the ideas of our correspondent may therefore be regarded as being, to a certain extent, entitled to the consideration bestowed by an official endorsement.

CAUTION.—We wish to caution persons against purchasing old postage stamps, with a view to having them redeemed at a post office, as such speculations might not prove quite so profitable as they appeared to promise in the outset. The government will pursue a liberal course certainly, but the Postmaster General intends to leave a mighty small margin for attempted fraud upon the public revenue, in the matter of redeeming these stamps.

A Good Riddance.

To the great relief of the public, the Department has decided to redeem, in money, the postage stamps which have for several months past been used as a substitute for small change. Although, at the time they were first applied to this use, the Department gave notice that their circulation as currency was never contemplated in their issue, and was a perversion from their legitimate use, the inevitable evil consequences of which must be accepted by those who saw fit to so misapply them, yet the urgent necessities of the public forced them to avail themselves of the stamps, in the absence of any other currency, and they soon came into extensive, almost universal use. As their material and texture render them liable to speedy destruction, and altogether unfitted to resist the wear and tear to which they were subjected, a large proportion of them soon became so mutilated and defaced that they could no longer be recognized—while the fraudulent cleansing process was resorted to by many persons, to put into circulation stamps which had already been used in prepayment of postage. The supply of new "postal currency," at first altogether inadequate, gradually increased, until at length, and in a measure by general consent, the gum-backs were banished from the place they had usurped, to be replaced by a new and more convenient substitute. Of course, immense numbers had accumulated in the hands of individuals for which no use could be found, and the inconvenience and trouble resulting—especially among the poorer classes—was very great. The only remedy was their redemption in money—and the Department, though not, we believe, strictly and legally bound to do so, has decided to undertake the task—for which, we hope, they will receive "the thanks of a grateful public."

We sincerely hope that we have seen the "positively last appearance" of the postage stamps in the character of currency.

Served Him Right.

At the last term of the U. S. District Court, at Detroit, Michigan, a young man—a young devil rather—named Charles Gay, a brother and assistant of the postmaster at Amboy in that State, was tried and convicted of fraudulently opening a letter, and writing obscene language therein. The letter in question was written by a most respectable young lady in Amboy, to her sister in Lyons, N. J. Gay, as before stated, violated the seal of the letter, added, in a somewhat disguised hand, a sentence of the vilest and most disgusting import, and then, resealing the letter, forwarded it to the owner.

For very natural reasons, no complaint was preferred by the parties interested, and for some time the commission of the crime was known only to the two sisters, and they were without the slightest suspicion as to who had committed so gross an offence.

In the investigation of another case connected with the Amboy office, by special Agent Van Vechten, of that district, the case of a stolen letter and draft, he in the most accidental manner learned of the first-mentioned delinquency, and at once concluded that both cases of roguery had one common origin, and that Amboy was the locality where they had occurred. After several urgent applications, he obtained the first-named letter, and the next thing to be done was to trace the handwriting of the interpolator. He accordingly examined the transcripts in the Amboy office, in which Gay sometimes wrote, and found that he made up the mail on the day the mutilated letter was posted; and a close comparison of the entries with the style of the file postscript referred to, convinced him as to Gay's guilt. Other very suspicious circumstances coming to light, he was arrested, tried, and convicted. In the course of the trial it came out that this was not the only instance in which he had opened letters addressed to females, and added equally obscene words—the similarity of the chirography and the language, pointing unmistakably to him. Could there be a more aggravated instance of total official depravity, or a crime which would call more loudly for an application of the extreme penalty of the law? The punishment provided in the section of the law under which this Gay deceiver was indicted, is a fine of \$500, and twelve months' imprisonment. This is for opening a letter with a design to obstruct correspondence or to pry into another's secrets. Congress probably never contemplated that a wretch like this would ever have the custody of correspondence, or they would have made the addition of obscene language, after the breaking of a seal, a capital offence.

Soldiers' Letters—Important Correction.
By an unfortunate accident, the following paragraph appeared in our last number: "Letters addressed to officers or soldiers, when forwarded, are subjected to the same rule as other correspondence, namely: If missent, they must be forwarded without extra postage; but if correctly sent, and a remaining is required for any cause, either by temporary absence or removal, an extra charge must be added, and collected on delivery."

This was intended as a reply to the question of a correspondent—"Are letters from officers or soldiers, addressed to their friends or families who are absent or have removed, entitled to be forwarded free of extra charge?" and our answer, as originally written, stated that "Letters addressed to the friends or families of officers or soldiers, are subjected to the same rule," etc., etc.; but by the omission of the words in italics, it conveys a totally different meaning.

We hope that all who may have been misled by this unintentional mis-statement, will bear this correction in mind; and as an antidote to any evil consequences of the mistake, we republish below the following official order on the subject of "forwarded" letters to soldiers:

"Postmasters will take notice that all prepaid letters to soldiers in any regiment in the service of the United States, and directed to them at a point where they have been stationed, may be forwarded, whenever practicable, to any other point to which they may have been ordered, without further charge thereon for forwarding."

The Postmaster General has authorized important alterations in the Albany post office.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

[CIRCULAR.]

JOHN MOFFAT & CO'S
GENUINE
VEGETABLE LIFE PILLS
AND
PHENIX BITTERS.

THE undersigned respectfully announces that he has resumed personal supervision of the selecting, mixing, manufacturing and preparing for sale of the celebrated medicines originally invented by him, and heretofore to be labeled and known as JOHN MOFFAT & CO'S GENUINE VEGETABLE LIFE PILLS, and JOHN MOFFAT & CO'S GENUINE PHENIX BITTERS.

The decree on the 11th day of April, 1862, by William B. Moffat, my son, has rendered it especially necessary that this direct supervision should take place, so that the medicines bearing the name of the undersigned may be carefully and correctly compounded henceforth, from drugs and herbs of the highest quality, and be so skillfully mixed that the public may rely on these medicines as originally manufactured, completely confident that they contain all of the proper ingredients, and consequent curative virtues. The secrets connected with these and with their correct manipulation and manufacture, I have fully confided to my co-partner, Mr. GEORGE LOWERY, for many years proprietor of influential newspapers in Boston and New York, and we shall both hereafter constantly and personally attend to their preparation and sale.

The undersigned, having reached the ripe age of nearly four score years, and having been the inventor and original manufacturer of the genuine medicines known by his name, and the first to introduce them to the public, upwards of twenty-seven years ago, is determined, at any cost, to have their original reputation maintained and protected from the possibility of deterioration.

That the public may obtain with certainty the genuine and only medicines prepared by JOHN MOFFAT & CO., and the only medicines in which I have any interest, NEW AND COSTLY LABELS have been executed, in the highest style of bank-note engraving, by the American Bank-Note Company of the city of New York. These labels are entirely different in design and style from those heretofore used on the medicines manufactured and sold by the late William B. Moffat. It is confidently believed that such expensive new labels will be the means of securing the public from being imposed upon by spurious or counterfeit medicines, bearing the name of the undersigned, and will be a guarantee to purchasers that they are supplied with the identical medicines prepared under the immediate personal supervision of "OLD JOHN MOFFAT," who first introduced to the public these extraordinary curative compounds, and who now again places them before the public with all the care, prudence, and caution derived from a long life's experience in the business.

The Principal Office

for the sale of these medicines, and where all the business connected therewith will be transacted, is at my long-established residence, the large and elegant brown-stone mansion, immediately adjoining the Everett House, being No. 32 EAST SEVENTEENTH STREET, North side of Union Square, New York City.

Each box will contain 24 pills, being one-fourth more than formerly given; and each bottle will contain a full half-pint of the Bitters, also being one-fourth more than formerly given. The usual caution and directions for wholesale and retail dealers. Orders solicited.

The Public's obedient servant,
JOHN MOFFAT.

Postmasters wishing to sell the above popular Medicines, will please send orders to
JOHN MOFFAT & Co.,
32 East Seventeenth Street,
New York.

AMERICAN MUTUAL
Life Insurance and Trust Company,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Business conducted wholly on the cash system—Reducing current expenses and liability to loss from the non-payment of premium notes—having but one class of members—premiums payable in advance, annually, semi-annually, or quarterly, at option—taking only first class risks—making triennial dividends—affording the assured on the 1st of January, 1862, the guaranty of an

Accumulated Cash Surplus of \$335,000, invested in mortgage and other first class securities. Policies issued payable at a given age.
Prof. BENJ. SILVERMAN, Secy., Pres't.
JONATHAN KNIGHT, M. D., V. Pres't.
WILLIS BRISTOL, Treasurer.
BENJ. NOYES, Secretary.
Prof. P. A. JEWETT, M. D., Medical Examiner.

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EDWIN FIELDS, M. D., Medical Examiner.

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RATES OF DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS OF MAILS AT LONDON.

Country.	When Departs.	Letters arrive in about 24 days.	When Due.
Africa W. coast of Australia.	23d each month.		10th each month.
Antwerp.	26th "	57 15th "	
Brazil.	30th "	61 19th "	
Boston.	30th "	25 5th "	
Calcutta.	30th "	40 5th "	
China.	10th & 25th 4th & 20th.	40 13th & 27th 4th & 2nd and 19th.	
India.	10th & 25th 4th & 20th.	30 13th, 18th, 27th 4th, 2nd, 19th, 27th.	

IMPORTANT TABLE.

SHOWING THE DIFFERENCE IN ROUTES, TIME REQUIRED, AND DATES OF DEPARTURE FROM AND ARRIVAL AT LONDON, OF CHINA AND INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND OTHER MAILS.

Country.	Route of Transportation.	Date of Departure from New York.	Date of Arrival at London.
Australia.	via Melbourne.	20th	10th
Antwerp.	via Rotterdam.	26th	15th
Brazil.	via Rio de Janeiro.	30th	19th
Boston.	via New York.	30th	5th
Calcutta.	via Singapore.	30th	5th
China.	via Hong Kong.	10th and 25th	13th and 27th
India.	via Ceylon.	10th and 25th	13th and 27th
London.	via Southampton.	10th and 25th	13th and 27th
London.	via Liverpool.	10th and 25th	13th and 27th
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UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. III. No. 4.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1863.

WHOLE No. 28.

Postmaster General's Report.
We published in our last an abstract of the Report of the Postmaster General, in which the more important statistics in reference to the finances, &c. of the Department were given. We give below some further extracts, which relate to subjects of most interest to Postmasters and the public generally:

"I review the recommendation in my report of last year for the establishment of some system to enable the department to procure contracts on fair terms with railroad companies for mail service. Many cases have arisen since that time to illustrate the necessity of further legislation to prevent the serious prejudice to public interests likely to occur if these corporations are left, as at present, entirely unregulated by law. This recommendation for the public to be understood as reflecting upon the public spirit and liberality of the railroad companies of the country generally; for if called on to designate a class of our people who are the most liberal and public spirited, I would say that it was the class concerned in railroads.

There would probably be no necessity for any change, if the department could deal with this class as a whole. The difficulty lies in having to deal with single corporations. Some of these corporations, when the public treasury was full, succeeded in obtaining too much from the treasury; and even now, when the resources of the country are so severely taxed to preserve the government, there are, I regret to say, some companies threatening to throw up the mails, unless terms even more onerous than any heretofore exacted from the government by any other company are agreed to by the department. The effect of yielding to such exactions on the part of the few has been to raise the terms required by all; for the more liberal justly say, whilst they agree that the terms allowed are too high, yet they cannot compete with rival lines unless they demand and receive the same rates for carrying the mails. From the natural bias of those concerned in a particular road, they are disposed to think injustice done them by the estimate made of the relative importance of their road, and of the mails over it.

The subject is one of difficulty; but it has been suggested that in lieu of the classification by which the compensation is now fixed, reference should be had to the actual cost of transportation as the basis for fixing the compensation to be paid; and I am disposed to think arrangements may be more satisfactorily made on such a basis than under the present system.

I am not informed as to the views of those interested in railroads on this point; but I think it probable that it would be generally acceptable, and that a compensation to cover the actual cost of transporting the mails would be satisfactory to that enlightened interest; for the considerations which preclude the government from deriving revenue from the mails, ought to operate even more directly on the railroad interest to preclude it from attempting to burden its business. All increase and acceleration of mails promotes the transportation of persons and property, for which the roads were constructed, and of which the transportation of the mails is but an incident.

The scarcity of small change, together with the general misconception of the purpose of the act of Congress approved 27th July, 1862, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish "postage and other stamps of the United States" for currency, has greatly embarrassed the department in the performance of its duties connected with the distribution of postage stamps. As soon as the passage of the act was announced, extraordinary quantities were purchased at the various post offices, exhausting the supply in some instances to the detriment of postal business. Postmasters were specially instructed to discontinue sales of stamps to persons evidently designing them for use as currency; but notwithstanding the precautions taken and the checks adopted at the several offices the demand has until quite recently been largely in advance of the daily manufacture. During the quarter ending 30th September last there were issued, in round numbers, 104,000,000 stamps of all denominations; and this notwithstanding the majority of applications therefor from postmasters were only partially filled, generally but one-half the number asked for having been sent. Had not this curtailment been made, the total number issued during the quarter would have reached nearly 200,000,000, or what would have sufficed, under ordinary circumstances, for the issue of an entire year. The sales at the principal post offices for the quarter under notice, compared with the corresponding quarter of 1861, show in some measure the extent of the demand for postage stamps for use as currency. The aggregate value of the postage stamps and stamped envelopes sold at twenty-nine of the larger post offices during the third quarter of 1862 was \$1,400,937 48, and during the corresponding quarter of 1861 was \$606,697 49, showing an excess in favor of 1862 of \$794,240 03. At the New York city office alone the excess of sales in the former quarter was \$425,296 19; at Chicago, \$48,760 19; at Philadelphia, \$35,597 12; at Boston, \$36,688 10; at St. Louis, \$19,908 37; and at Milwaukee, \$20,255 24.

Nearly the entire excess of stamps sold during the period under notice, has been or is now in use as currency. Being ill adapted for circulation, large quantities of them have become so defaced as to be inapplicable to legitimate use for the payment of postage, and evil-disposed persons have availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded to put into circulation stamps once used for postage, from which the cancelling marks had been wholly or partially erased.

In pursuance of the provisions of an act approved July 16, 1862, this department has endeavored to punish, and to prevent thereby, as well as by the attainment of a more effectual mode of cancellation, the fraudulent use or sale of cancelled postage stamps. The law, to be effective in its purpose, should absolutely prohibit the removal of cancelled stamps from the paper to which they are attached, for whatever purpose. Not being criminal in itself, it should be made so by statute, to prevent the evil consequences of the practice.

An effort has been made to procure a cancelling ink which cannot be effaced without invol-

ving the destruction of the postage stamp; and three varieties of ink claimed to possess this quality are now being tested by actual use in post offices.

Various new instruments and devices for cancelling postage stamps have been examined and submitted to a trial, and two machines are now in process of construction which are designed to replace cancelling by hand at the larger offices.

The issue of "postage currency" by the Treasury Department will doubtless soon displace postage stamps from circulation; and although the redemption of stamps sold by postmasters is not required by existing law, in order to protect holders of the same against loss, so far as this can be done without detriment to the interests of the department, I have determined to direct postmasters to exchange, for United States notes, under proper regulations, all evidently uncancelled stamps offered them for that purpose.

In my last report a change was recommended in the system of issuing postage stamps and stamped envelopes, so that, in lieu of being delivered, as at present, on order from postmasters, and charged in their accounts, the latter might be required, at the discretion of the Postmaster General, to purchase under proper regulations, such quantities as might be needed at their respective offices. The subject is again commended to the consideration of Congress.

There are advantages incident to the employment of stamped envelopes for correspondence, which separate postage stamps do not possess. The address and sealing of the former preclude their use a second time, while the latter are subject to such fraudulent use, if imperfectly cancelled, or if the cancelling marks have been erased. On the other hand, stamped envelopes relieve the public from the trouble and delay of attaching separate stamps, which, in the hurry of business, is not unfrequently forgotten, while the stamps are also liable to removal, accidental or otherwise, occasioning a detention of letters. Correspondence covered by stamped envelopes can, moreover, be lawfully conveyed outside the mail. I would therefore suggest that the Postmaster General be authorized to sell stamped envelopes, in quantities of not less than five hundred, at a discount not exceeding five per cent. on the charges made by the Post Office Department for smaller quantities thereof, which charge should include the value of the postage stamp impressed thereon. And as an additional inducement to stationers and other dealers to provide themselves with varieties of stamped envelopes suited to the wants of their customers, and to make such envelopes a part of their stock in trade, it has been determined to try the experiment of embossing postage stamps on an envelope belonging to private individuals or firms, who shall have previously applied for the privilege, and have paid the full value of the stamps, (less the discount,) provided the number shall not be less than five hundred in any one case.

Great efforts have been made to give security to the mails. New and improved locks have been put into service; a stricter surveillance has been exercised over the affidavits and agents of this department; negligence has been punished with diligence and severity; and the results, in producing energy and vigilance, have been satisfactory. But the mails, despite the very general watchfulness and fidelity on the part of the employees of this department, continue to be subject to depredations.

The means of conveyance are only adapted to the primary object of the mail service, the mere transmission of intelligence. This department could not make use of strong boxes nor adopt measures to fix accountability upon each of the multitudes of agents employed in the business, such as are resorted to by the carriers of merchandise and money, without sacrificing the expediency required of a carrier of intelligence, and at the same time greatly increasing the expense necessary to the proper management of the latter business. For this reason the mails have always been, and must continue to be, an unsafe medium for the conveyance of money letters. The money contained in the mails creates the temptation to the robbery committed, and is, moreover, the chief cause of the loss of letters which do not contain money.

It is, in my opinion, very desirable, for these and many other reasons, that money should, as far as practicable, be excluded from the mails. With this view I recommend:

1. The adoption of a money order system.
2. A greatly increased rate upon registered letters, approximating the charges imposed by other parties engaged in the transportation of such packages; and—
3. That all letters known to contain money shall be charged with registry postage.

The adoption of a money order system would obviate the necessity for some plan by which letters containing negotiable and other valuable papers could be registered, although bankers would, to some extent, avail themselves of it to transmit by mail packages of money. But the registration fee, as now fixed by law, does not pay the expenses of the registry system, which might therefore with propriety be discontinued, so far as the interests of this department are concerned. It is, moreover, incomplete in this respect: that the sender of a registered letter, who gets a receipt for it from the postmaster of the mailing office, upon payment of a fee of five cents and the ordinary postage, receives no information from the department as to the delivery or non-delivery of his letter, unless, in the latter event, it reach the dead letter office.

To obviate this defect it is proposed that every postmaster who registers a letter shall execute duplicate receipts therefor, one of which to be handed to the sender, as at present, and the other forwarded with the registered letter and accompanying bill to the post office of delivery. The person who receives the letter shall be required not only to acknowledge that fact in a book kept for the purpose, but also to sign the duplicate receipt, which shall be returned by the postmaster at the office of delivery to the sender, as an evidence that the letter was duly delivered to the person for whom it was intended, and as a record of the date of such delivery.

Should the sender of a registered letter fail to obtain a return receipt therefor in due course of mail, he would at once notify the department of the failure, which would lead to an investigation of the cause of the delay, and facilitate the prompt delivery or recovery of the letter.

As a compensation for such registration and return of receipt from the office of delivery, I would recommend that a fee of twenty cents should be charged on each letter or package registered.

The inspection office is charged with the observation of failures and delinquencies in the service of contractors and route agents; with fines and penalties thereof; with the subject of mail depredations and prevention of violations of postal laws; with the duty of procuring and distributing mail bags, locks and keys, and some other duties of detail.

During the last year a large number of mail pouches and locks, accumulated in certain offices, and there dissipated from neglect, have been recovered. In the Chicago office, under the former incumbent, several hundred had thus accumulated, been dissipated for two years or more, and upon examination some packages of letters were still found therein, indicating great neglect originally. I have, since that time, directed the services of a temporary agent to the same investigation in other large offices. He is still so employed, and has recovered a large additional number of mail bags.

Plain Talk.

We take from the *La Crosse (Wis.) Republican*, the following copy of a letter recently addressed to Hon. Alexander V. Randall, by a gentleman ambitious of official honors and, moreover, willing to pay for them, as appears by the business-like and ingenious offer, contained in his "P. S.":

LA CROSSE, Dec. 6, 1862.

Hon. ALEX. V. RANDALL,
First Assistant P. M. General.

DEAR SIR.—The *La Crosse* Post Office became vacant last spring, and was filled, upon the recommendation of Mr. Hanchett, by the appointment of Leonard Lottridge on the next day after the death of Mr. W. C. Rogers, the former incumbent. The appointment—rather the recommendation—of Mr. Lottridge by Mr. Hanchett, was made long before any expression of the wishes of the people of *La Crosse* could possibly reach Washington, and was made contrary to the wish of every person in *La Crosse*, except, perhaps, his partner, Mr. Seymour; and I make bold to assert, without fear of contradiction, that there is not a man in *La Crosse*, either Republican or Democrat, but could get more of the citizens of *La Crosse* to recommend him for the office, than you, than Mr. Lottridge. There is also great complaint now that Mr. Lottridge is absent from the office most of the time now, attending to his own private business, and electing for others, leaving the business of the office in the hands of irresponsible clerks.

Now the point is here—I applied for the appointment at the time of Mr. Rogers' death, and I have on file in your office (if Mr. Hanchett did as requested) by far the most numerous signed petition sent from here; and I now ask for the removal of Mr. Lottridge, and my appointment; and I will forward you letters confirming the above statement, and recommendations from C. W. Marshall, Hon. T. B. Stoddard, Gen. E. D. Campbell, or from any other person you may wish from in *La Crosse*, except Mr. Seymour, Mr. Lottridge's partner in the *Republician*.

I was appointed Notary Public by you, and still hold the office by re-appointment. Let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,
G. FARNAM.

P. S.—If you think favorable of my request, and will give me the office, I will come on to Washington with such letters and recommendations as you may request, and, upon receiving the appointment, will place in your private purse \$400; or you may say in your letter *come, or not come*; and if *come*, I shall consider it a guarantee of success.

Mr. Farnam evidently has no talent for "circumlocution." He has a "way of putting things" which has, at least, the merit of being out at all difficult to understand—"calling a spade a spade," without the use of any of the occult and ambiguous phrases which more fastidious people would employ to convey their meaning. Mr. Randall, however, does not seem to have been inclined to "think favorable" of this liberal proposition; for instead of saying "come," and thereby sending the delighted Farnam by first train to Washington, laden with his recommendations and \$400, he calmly indited the following letter to the postmaster of *La Crosse*:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
ASSISTANT'S OFFICE, Washington, D. C.,
Dec. 12, 1862.

SIR.—The enclosed is a copy of a letter I received to day. When changes are merited, I shall make them without regard to personal interests or local controversies. But I desire it to be understood that I am not to be approached after the manner of this letter. You will cause it to be published, with this note, in the *La Crosse* paper.

Very truly, &c.,
ALEX. V. RANDALL,
To Postmaster, *La Crosse, Wis.*

And so the end the aspirations of Mr. F., as far as the postmaster of *La Crosse* is concerned.

It would be a surprising thing that so direct an attempt at bribery should be made on a high Government official, were there not too much reason to fear that the "influence" of some politicians in procuring offices is a marketable commodity, which can sometimes be purchased at a much lower figure than even "four hundred dollars." Gov. RANDALL will watch such office-brokers.

Secretary Chase proposes to issue United States Treasury notes for fractional parts of a dollar, to supersede the "postal currency" now in circulation, and we hope the plan will be adopted. The Treasury, and not the Post Office Department, is the proper source of Government paper currency, and it is difficult to see the propriety of using the "image and superscription" of one branch of the Government in a matter which is under the exclusive control of another.

Sharp Practice.

A curious instance of the peculiar strategy which is sometimes resorted to by those desirous of serving their country in an official capacity, was developed not long since, in the following manner:

The Postmaster General received by mail from a Route Agent, a letter announcing, in these terms, his intention of severing his connection with the mail service:

New York, —, 1862.

Hon. MONTGOMERY BLAIR:
Dear Sir.—You will please appoint some one in my place as extra mail agent, on the ———— roads, as I am about resigning.

Yours, &c.,
W. K. ———"

Of course, but little time was lost in relieving Mr. K. ———, from the cares of office, by the appointment of a successor—who, strange to say, found the worthy agent, apparently quite unprepared for his visit, and very anxious to ascertain the cause of his sudden removal. There was no remedy, however, but to submit with the best possible grace—so the new appointee was duly installed, and the unlucky ex-agent set himself to work to discover a cause for his ejection—finding, in reply to his inquiries, and to his utter amazement, that the change had been made at his own request! An inspection of the letter received by the Department proved it to be a forgery, committed by some one who had cast a covetous eye on the route agency in question. As soon as the facts were made known, Mr. K. ———, was reinstated in his position, but it has never been satisfactorily demonstrated who was the unscrupulous aspirant who had served him the scurvy trick.

Another ingenious device was lately resorted to by a route agent, to obtain his position, which he had good reason to believe he would soon be called on to vacate in favor of another party, in whose behalf the Congressional representative for the district was exerting himself at Washington. Addressing the P. M. General in the name of his probable successor, he wrote:

"Sir—I am informed by Hon. Mr. ———, that he has procured for me the appointment of route agent on the ——— R.R. If this is the case, will you send along the documents? I am about tired of waiting.

Yours, in haste,
R. B. ———"

The effect of the receipt of this extraordinary document at the Department, was of course to crush at once all Mr. B.'s chances for the appointment—such gross impertinence and disrespect could never be tolerated in the service, and the inventor of this cunningly devised operation succeeded thereby in obtaining an extension of his lease of official life for a season. The scheme was detected at last, however, and he was obliged to make way for the rival whom he had temporarily tricked out of the prize which was just within his grasp.

OUR POST OFFICE TROUBLES EXPLAINED.—Some time since we complained in the columns of the *Herald* of great carelessness, or something worse, in the management of the mails and the post offices. By every mail we were notified that letters containing money, checks, drafts, and even important correspondence intended for our paper, had been posted, which we had never received. This state of things has continued and increased of late.

Our troubles were of course made known to the Postmaster here, and to the Department's Agent, who appeared to be doing his best to discover the cause, and he has at last been successful in detecting a person in no way connected with the post office, but one who had stealthily obtained access to our letters after their receipt at the *Herald* office, but before they had been opened. He was ingeniously and thoroughly caught, and has made a virtue of necessity by acknowledging himself the author of the extensive and annoying depredations.

Of course others in and out of the post office are thus relieved from all suspicion and blame, and we shall proceed to credit the various sums lost to those who sent them, in all cases where we are satisfied that such moneys reached this establishment. All checks and drafts taken were destroyed, and duplicates will be required. Meantime our confidence in the Post Office Department is, we are happy to state, fully restored.—*N. Y. Herald*.

We must say that our neighbor of the *Herald* has done the "handsome thing" by all parties interested, in announcing the denouement of this perplexing affair.

It may not be out of place to remark in this connection, that there is scarcely a leading newspaper or periodical establishment in this city, the proprietors of which have not suffered for weeks and months at a time, in a similar way, until, as in the case of the *Herald*, they were shown that they had failed to discover the cause, owing to a too close proximity to the rogue! Of course a public acquittal of the Department and its subordinates of all responsibility and blame has usually followed. Among the papers alluded to are the *Daily Times*, *The Independent*, the *Home Journal*, *Wilkes' Spirit of the Times*, *Church Journal*, *Harpers' Weekly* and *Monthly*, and many others; while we were to give a list of suffering business firms, and public and private institutions, which have in the same way been called upon to exonerate Uncle Sam's employees, we should be compelled to make a pretty large draft upon the city Directory.

It is estimated that old postage stamps, to the amount of over \$100,000, will be present at the post-office.

The Postmaster General.

Mr. EBBRON: Sir—I am rejoiced to learn that Judge BLAIR, the Postmaster General, is still to remain at the head of the Post Office Department. In the present crisis in our postal affairs, and in the history of the Republic, it would be a severe public misfortune, and is almost universally so regarded by those who are acquainted with the energy and fidelity which he has brought to bear, in enhancing the usefulness of one of the most important branches of the Government. He assumed the management of his Department under great embarrassments, both pecuniary and political. Chaos prevailed in a large section of the country, where his subordinate officers were in rebellion, and perverting the mails and post offices to the purposes of disloyalty, and plunder of the public property.—In this trying situation, no man could have been more discreet, and yet more decided, than Judge BLAIR. He promptly cut loose from these ungrateful communities, as fast as they proved themselves, by their acts, unworthy of the benefits of a system which had been to them so great a blessing. And at the first reliable signs of returning loyalty, he caused the mails closely to "follow the old flag."

Of the successful results of his excellent management of the financial affairs of the Department, his late Report supplies the most satisfactory evidence. It is again important that this able officer should still remain at his post, in order, among other powerful reasons, that he may put in execution important measures of reform which he has originated, and in which the people of not only this but other countries are deeply interested.

Pa., Dec. 4th, 1862.

EDITOR OF THE U. S. MAIL:
Dear Sir—I have a high appreciation of your "Post-office Guide," and hope that it may reach the entire family of U. S. P. M's, for the benefit of the service.

By the way, our Chief, Hon. M. BLAIR, in his Annual Report, takes the true ground to improve the efficiency of the service. If we are behind European Governments in the administration of postal affairs, it is not entirely due to the custom which prevails of making the post offices of the country "rewards for political merit," rather than for official fitness? When will the people learn that it is their interest to demand that experienced and competent officials shall be retained during good behavior, and to decline an endorsement of the political "claims" of those who seek an apprenticeship to the business every succeeding four years?

But my object in writing was to solicit information on a point not clearly laid down in "the books," viz:—
What is a drop letter? Is a postmaster authorized to drop letters by the half-ounce, or is a "drop" any thing with an address and a one cent stamp attached?

I have held that a package dropped in a post office for delivery, weighing say, four pounds, should be rated at one cent for each half-ounce. But as I find a difference of opinion on the subject, I have concluded to submit the question to your experience and judgment.

Yours truly,
S. R. ———, P. M.

ANSWER.—A "drop letter" is chargeable with a penny only, even if its weight exceeds half an ounce. There is no further charge for delivery. A package weighing four pounds would not be a drop letter.

STAMP PACKAGES.—One of the most important requirements of the Department, and one to which we have several times alluded, is that making it the duty of postmasters and route agents, to keep a record of packages of postage stamps and stamped envelopes passing through their hands, from time to time, designed for other offices. We have reason to fear that there is neglect in this particular in some instances. The Department expects the regulation to be faithfully regarded.

Letter Addresses.

Hokey pokey winkey wang,
Take this letter to Billy Strang,
Who lives at Bristol, in R. I.
He's a hully boy, and has a glass eye.

Hurry up as fast as you can,
And carry this letter to my Mary Ann;
She lives in Lancaster, State of Pa.,
And her fother name (I believe) is McKay.

To the care of Mick Mullen for Dennis Kil-fale America New York or Dostane at the stone cutting or eisshwhair or for his cousin Bernard Geraty.

Lucinda Jones, a fair young miss,
Will find a note inside of this;
On swiftest wings, then, let it fly,
To a place called Gouverneur, N. Y.

Patrick Smith
Ryeponds
N Y
{Meant for Rye post office.—Ed.}

in care of miss
Peter Hoff Stamford
Post office for miss margratt
as I for get her name
state of Kentuck.

[WRITTEN ON THE BACK OF A LETTER.]
Come, old P. M., put on your specs,
And scan this address o'er,
The hand is plain, and so won't vex,
Nor cause your usual jaw.

To save this letter from delay,
In reading it you know,
I send a copy, which I pay
By stamp, so let it go.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1863.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters-General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

Hon. MONTGOMERY BLAIR.—A week or two since, this statement was made to many of the newspapers, that Postmaster General BLAIR had tendered his resignation to the President. We take this occasion to state, on the direct authority of Judge BLAIR himself, that there was no truth whatever in the report. He did not tender his resignation, nor offer to do so.

Postage to Nova Scotia.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, Dec. 15, 1862.

Sir.—On and after the 1st of January, 1863, the prepayment of postage upon letters to Nova Scotia, forwarded by the land mail, will be optional, instead of compulsory. You will, therefore, please correct the Postage Table accordingly.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ALEX. W. RANDALL,

First Assistant Postmaster-General.

Social and Financial.

We wish all our official and other friends a very Happy New Year, and we also wish that each of our subscribers as are in arrears, would please remit, without waiting for bills to be sent. We do not see how they can be "happy," while they neglect so just a proceeding.

Stamp Redemption at New York.

The redemption of postage stamps which have been used as currency, has been in progress at the New York office since the 15th ult., and up to this time the number of packages over \$5.00, for which receipts have been given, is 2,462, to the value of \$150,000, of which about \$23,000 have been paid. About \$6,000 in sums of less than \$5.00 have been paid on presentation. It is believed that the greater part of the large lots have been deposited, although the long line of applicants shows, as yet, no sign of diminution. The hour for commencing redemption is 10 A. M., but long before that time the lobby is crowded with those desirous of "realizing" on their gum-backs. At 2 P. M., the hour for closing, a large number are daily "left out in the cold," but they usually bear the disappointment philosophically, and console themselves by endeavoring to secure "front seats" by an early call the next day. Various ingenious dodges are resorted to by some to avoid the tedious necessity of waiting their turn, but most of such attempts are rendered abortive, by the vigilance of the officers detailed to preserve order in the line, and the rule of "first come first served," is in general rigidly adhered to.

Some ten clerks are employed in receiving, receipting for, counting, and inspecting the stamps offered—and the latter duties will probably occupy them for a considerable time beyond the period (15th inst.) fixed for the cessation of the redemption at the New York office.

POST OFFICE ROTATION.—It is a powerful argument against rotation in office, as applicable to the postal service of the country, that every Postmaster General, (with the exception, perhaps, of Mr. Granger, since Amos Kendall's administration of the Department, has before or at the expiration of his official term, made no secret of his convictions that such a policy was a serious detriment to the public interest, and a prominent obstacle in the way of postal improvement and reforms. Care Johnson even, in his last Report to Congress, in 1843, we think, alluded to this questionable practice in strong terms of disapprobation. And the writer heard him say, (as he has other Chiefs of the Department on retiring from office,) that his experience had taught him that a system of removals and appointments based only on political grounds, was all wrong, and wholly unjust to the people. But nobody seemed to give "Old Care" credit for honesty in this testimony, as the political gullotine was quite as active in his hands, perhaps, as under any of his predecessors. He had filled pretty much all the offices with his own party friends, and why shouldn't he pull up the ladder? asked the press and the citizen. But so one who had seen and realized fully the practical mischief of the system, ever questioned the sincerity of Mr. Johnson in giving this warning to the country.

How to cure this evil, without giving one party or another the advantage in the "long run," is the question. But if post-office employees, especially clerks, were forbidden to take any part in the elections beyond quietly voting, it would remove one of the chief reasons which have heretofore prevailed in the distribution of such patronage, especially in our large cities, where permanency among this class of officials is most essential, in view of the immense interests involved.

Stamped Envelopes.

In our last paper, we gave the outlines of an important measure proposing material changes in the mode of furnishing and circulating Government stamped envelopes. The plan has now been arranged under the following regulations, which have been issued by the Department for the guidance of postmasters and the public generally.

We understand that postmaster Wakeman is now ready to receive applications for embossing, in conformity with these instructions:

EMBOSSEMENT OF POSTAGE STAMPS ON ENVELOPES AND PAPER FOR PRIVATE PARTIES.

The Post Office Department has adopted the following rules for embossing postage stamps upon envelopes or paper presented by private parties:

1. Applications must be made to the postmaster of the city or town in which the applicant resides or does business.

2. Each applicant will state, in full, his name and place of business; if a member of a firm or company, the names of the several members thereof, with the style or title under which the business is transacted, and a description of the same.

3. Before any envelope can be embossed with a postage stamp, it is required that the owners of such envelopes shall cause their respective names to be printed or impressed thereon, and that specimens thereof shall be filed with the postmaster and at the Post Office Department.

4. The Postmaster will satisfy himself as to the respectability and responsibility of the applicant, and certify the same to the Department.

5. On payment to the postmaster of the postage, and the charge for embossing the stamp, he will prepare receipts in duplicate, specifying the number of envelopes to be embossed, the denomination of the stamps wanted, the amount of postage, and the amount of the fee for embossing. The original receipt will be given to the applicant, and the duplicate, together with a copy of the application, one of the specimen envelopes, and the certificate required by the 4th rule, sent by the postmaster, at the same time, to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

6. The Third Assistant Postmaster-General will forward to the stamp and envelope agent at New York, upon the receipt at the Department of the said duplicate and other papers required by the 5th rule, an order to the contractor for the embossing of the number and denominations specified said paid for.

7. When such order is sent, the applicant will receive notification thereof; whereupon he will forward said notification, with the paper or envelopes to be embossed, to the contractor (G. F. Nesbitt) of the city of New York, who will promptly execute them, and after inspection by the stamp and envelope agent, they will be returned by the latter to the owner, the transportation to be, in all cases, at the risk and expense of the latter.

8. Applications will be numbered, and attended to, in the order of their reception, at the Post Office Department.

9. Parties procuring stamped envelopes in the manner above indicated, not exclusively for their own use, but with the design of selling the same, will require a special license for that purpose from the Postmaster-General.

Personal Supervision.

"The office of postmaster is one of much trust and responsibility, and the appointment proceeds from a confidence reposed in him personally by the appointing power. For this reason he cannot be permitted to transfer the charge of his office, and the performance of its duties to another; thus creating a sinecure, and virtually substituting in his stead as postmaster a person unknown to the Department."

The above extract will, no doubt, be generally recognized by postmasters as a copy of the 10th section of the existing regulations of the Post Office Department. Still, we fear, it is not as familiar, nor quite as faithfully regarded, as many other official requirements.

Under the authority given in a subsequent section, "to appoint an assistant to prevent the office from being left without a duly qualified person to perform its duties," it is a notorious fact that many postmasters give so little personal attention to the details of their respective offices, that the nominal head of the concern could be better spared than the youngest clerk, especially if the latter is intelligent and efficient. In some large offices, and in very many of a smaller class, the time and thoughts of the incumbents are almost entirely pre-occupied with outside matters, apparently satisfied that all will go smoothly under the superintendence of the "deputy,"—and perhaps, in a majority of such cases, matters do go on quite as satisfactorily as though the postmaster kept good faith with the Department, and attended to the business himself. Then why not dispense with the outside partner altogether, and divide the salary among those who perform the labor, making the "deputy," if competent, a postmaster in name, as he is in fact.

It is painful to find how little practical information as to postal details is possessed by some postmasters, who are so much in the habit of surrendering up all official duty to others.—We do not, of course, mean to claim that in very large offices the postmaster is expected to perform, literally, the clerical labor of a clerk—that he is to assist in making up, assorting and delivering the mails—but he is expected, both by the public who pay him, and the Department to which he is responsible, to understand his business; to spend his time, during business hours, in his office; to give precedence to business calls, rather than political ones; to personally supervise and discipline his subordinates; to know that they *deserve* his respect and confidence. And that, while it would be folly to attempt to attend himself to every crank, belt, wheel or screw in so complicated a machine, yet it is clearly his duty to be sure that all is going well, and that the public are realizing, to the fullest extent, the great commercial and domestic purposes and benefits, to secure which postal facilities were established.

But there is another class of offices, which are always sought after with great eagerness, which also pay well, and are more easily managed. In such, the postmaster can and should find time to assist personally in the necessary work to be done. Instead of being a stranger to the visitors at the office, his face and form should be familiar to, and recognized by the most humble citizen. If he is a physician, a lawyer, or belongs to any other profession which

does not allow him to spend many hours in his office daily, he should never have assumed the functions of a place amounting to a sinecure. The justice of this position is borne out in the first regulation above quoted, as well as by a proper regard for the public interests. These hints relate to a requirement which is deemed of the first importance by the appointing power.

Bad Direction.

ITS CONSEQUENCES.—In putting up letters for the mails, postmasters and their clerks should, at least, use the same degree of care in addressing the packages, as they would in the super-scription of their own correspondence. In fact it should be greater, because, while carelessness in their own case would be liable to inflict individual disappointment or positive injury only, when practiced indiscriminately the mischief is wide-spread and incalculable.

This evil was forcibly illustrated recently, by the blunder given to an important package made up at one distribution office, and intended for another. The abbreviation "N. Y." was adopted, instead of New York. By accident, the package was haggled to Washington, D. C. A clerk at that office, mistaking the Nebraska Territory was meant, started it off for Chicago, Ill., for distribution to the far off region referred to. At Chicago, it was turned back for New York, and received at this office more than a week after its original mailing. It would have been here in a few hours, had the short words, New York, been written in full, and not for the mis-reading in the first instance to Washington. Many valuable letters thus went astray, causing alarm and disappointment. One of them contained enclosures to the amount of over \$124,000!

A CURIOUS CASE.—Not long since, complaints were very numerous of irregularities and losses at the post office at South Danvers, Mass. Money letters, which were known to have arrived there by the record, mysteriously disappeared. The only persons known to have access to the office and letters were the postmaster, and his son acting as his clerk. The evidence seemed so conclusive that they were both indicted before the U. S. grand jury for purloining letters from the post-office, and have been since awaiting their trial.

Now mark how singularly innocence and justice have been vindicated in this strange case.

On the night of the 24th ult. a man by the name of Daniel F. Cate, was caught in the act of committing a burglary in a store in South Danvers, but afterwards managed to escape from the officers. His lodgings were sought out and a search of his room made, when, among evidences of various other burglaries, were found a false key to the post-office, and, by entries in a small memorandum book, briefly recording some of his professional exploits, it appeared that he had made almost nightly visits to the post-office about the time of the losses complained of.

Of the nature of the evidence against the postmaster beyond the circumstances already stated, we are ignorant. But it is possible that conviction would have followed, had it not been for the arrest of Cate, and the other fortunate discoveries. Their friends and the community will of course rejoice at this timely restoration of their former unblemished character.

P. S.—Since the above was in type, we have received from South Danvers some further interesting details, which we must defer till our next issue. Our notice is, in the main, correct, excepting that one of the indictments had been previously tried, and a verdict of acquittal rendered.

WE are gratified to see a marked improvement in the cancellation of postage stamps upon letters, as shown by observing the condition of the stamps, on the receipt of letters arriving by the mails, at the New York office, from various points. These examinations, however, have resulted in some amusing discoveries. It has been found that the most unpardonable specimens of attempts at cancelling, have been upon letters mailed at large offices, the postmasters of which have exhibited extraordinary vigilance in detecting and complaining of the short-comings of some of their official brethren in this particular. One, at least, of these watchful public servants, observing that the stamps from another large office were not more than half cancelled, called on sundry bankers and merchants to obtain an assortment of envelopes which had covered correspondence mailed at the aforesaid delinquent office. In order to make the detection complete, and head off any denial that, in the absence of the documents, might otherwise follow the charge of bad cancellation, this batch of swift witnesses was, of course, speedily sent to the careless friend, with more than a gentle hint that such things must not be longer practiced. But a few days elapsed, before this complaining officer was caught in sending off, in a single mail, foreign letters to the amount of nearly four dollars, with the stamps scarcely touched by the cancelling instrument, and a large portion of the domestic letters in the same condition. Perhaps the office receiving the envelope and the admonition as above, lost this fine opportunity of turning the tables upon its former accuser! The latter has not since been heard from, but we have noticed that the stamps from his office now get an awful "smoothing."

And yet, in both of these cases, the postmasters are among the most precise and efficient officers in the service. They supposed their clerks were executing their orders as to killing the stamps effectually, but they, as is too often the case, had not recently looked to see what it was done.

The Last Chance.

"Will not the Postmaster General, if necessary, extend the time for the redemption of postage stamps, beyond the thirty days devoted to that purpose, and now transpiring?" "Why will it not be just as binding on the Government to redeem soiled stamps at any time hereafter, as it is under the present arrangement?"

We feel authorized to reply to the first of these enquiries, that it is possible that stamps will not be redeemed, or received for redemption, beyond the expiration of thirty days from the time of commencement, which, in New York, was the 15th ult. Consequently, the gate will no doubt be shut down here on the 15th of January, inst., and the same restriction applies to other large cities; but, of course, the dates of expiration of the period limited will vary according to the time of commencement.

With respect to the other question—redemption has never been "hiding" on the Department in any reasonable sense. The use of the stamps as currency was discouraged as much as possible, although undoubtedly a great public convenience, and perhaps, under existing circumstances, a necessity. But it must be understood, that should they be used hereafter in a similar way, their value can only be realized by applying them to the prepayment of postage. In other words, no consideration short of a legal enactment will induce the Postmaster General to change his determination not to receive or redeem them in future, after they have once been sold. This may, therefore, be considered the last chance.

GETTING INTO OFFICE.—Ordinarily, persons wishing to get into post offices, employ, besides the usual personal application, the ordinary appliances of recommendations and influence, political and otherwise. There is another class of aspirants, however, who prefer to act as night clerks, seeming to despise all such "red tape" circumlocution, and rely upon the irresistible power of some English "Jenny" or American "Auger," preferring not to risk a refusal of a more respectful petition, or, if need be, to make it to the President at some future time, should any legal objections arise against their peculiar mode of accomplishing their ends. They cannot exactly be called "bangers on" in pursuit of patronage, for they generally give no notice whatever of their intentions, and vacate their situations without any warning, or the least regard for the convenience of the service, or even waiting for the appointment of a successor.

Several of our important post offices have been cursed with this kind of "temporary help," who have carried out not only their dishonest intentions, but pretty much all the letters and other available property. New London, Conn., is the last place where these independent office-seekers have appeared, and the result of their operations was the clearing of the office of nearly every letter then on hand. The pouches made up to go out in the morning were cut open, and the packages abstracted, and those with the loose letters were crammed into other bags, and taken to a secluded spot in the rear of a church, where the mails appear to have been "assorted," and then "distributed" to parts unknown—thus carrying on these nefarious proceedings literally under the "droppings of the sanctuary."

But there are one or two consoling facts amidst this sweeping robbery. So far, it is not known that a dollar in money was found by them in the letters, to reward them for their night's work. The New York mails usually arrive at about 1 o'clock, A. M., and, on this occasion, embraced an important California mail, which arrived here the day before, the 19th inst. Owing to an accident to the "owl train," these mails were delayed until 3 A. M., or about an hour after the robbery, the time of which, about 2 o'clock, is fixed by several facts and circumstances deemed conclusive.

We have, on several occasions, called the attention of postmasters to the importance of taking every necessary precaution to guard against these post-office burglars. They owe it to themselves and their community to do this. An extra shutter, bolt or bar, or a watchman inside or out, or a good watch dog, is of very trifling moment when compared, to losses, and sad disappointments, and perhaps real suffering, which such an event as we have here noted cannot fail to produce. In this instance, but for the accidental delay in the arrival of the California mails, an incalculable amount of embarrassment and inconvenience would probably have ensued to merchants expecting the business letters, drafts, &c., which those mails usually contain, besides the inevitable sorrow and distress which would have been caused to those families who depend for support upon the remittances of the husband or father, toiling for their sakes on the far-off Pacific shore. The mails, after reaching their destination, should be the objects of as much care, and be as carefully guarded against violation and robbery, as when in transit; and no postmaster should neglect any reasonable precaution to secure the safety of the important trust confided to him.

NORFOLK POST OFFICE.—We failed to notice in our last number, the late change in the post office at Norfolk, Virginia. The gentleman who took charge of the office, soon after the city came under the military rule of the Government, retired a few weeks since, and the Postmaster-General conferred the appointment upon STANLEY G. TROTTER, Esq., of Connecticut.

This is an excellent selection, both for the Department and the citizens of Norfolk. For many years Mr. Trotter was postmaster at New London, Conn., which office he conducted in a most faithful manner, and to the entire satisfaction of all parties. To our Norfolk "erring sisters"—or brothers, as the case may be—who may profess to entertain a bitter hatred towards the "Yankees," we would say—let's see you hate Mr. Trotter if you can. We can send you no better specimen of a gentleman and a public officer.

Post Office Statistics.

One or two errors having occurred in the article published in our last number, embracing statistics exhibiting some of the operations of the New York Post Office, for the year ending September 30, 1862, we republish the figures, with several additional items:

Letters mailed at New York, (not including those received for distribution,) 14,725,240. Increase over last year, 583,218.

Letters received for delivery in the city, 12,966,660. Less than last year by 2,533,230.

Letters received for distribution, 18,205,465. Increase, 5,455,300.

Received from California, for delivery and distribution, 253,749. Decrease, 17,163.

Sent to California, including those received to be remailed, 340,519. Decrease, 62,618.

Letters delivered by carriers, 1,913,919.

Foreign letters sent, 4,717,043. Received, 2,268,577.

Registered letters received for delivery, 62,058; for distribution, 27,589. Total, 79,647.

Registered letters mailed, including those from other offices to be remailed, 57,346.

Packages of postage stamps mailed for other offices, 56,590. Stamped envelope packages, 18,087.

S.—, Cr., Nov. 11, 1862.

J. HOLBROOK: Sir.—I write to know whether a postmaster or assistant postmaster is allowed to tell, outside of the office, who sends letters? Take, for instance, my case.—I have been in the habit of corresponding with a young lady in a distant town. Through the post-office clerk, some person found it out, and we came very near having a fuss. Please inform me if they are allowed to tell. I think that there is a law in regard to it, but others disagree with me. If you will inform me, you will confer a favor.

ANSWER.—The law is severe on postmasters or clerks who are guilty of opening a letter under any circumstances. It does not specially provide against giving improper information, (such as who is writing or receiving letters, &c.) obtained by virtue of the official position of such public officer. To his hands the correspondence of all classes is entrusted, under, to say the least, implied obligations of perfect secrecy and security—obligations which may justly be claimed as sacred. Notwithstanding the absence of law on this point, wherever and whenever it can be satisfactorily shown that this confidential relation has been violated from any cause, in the manner suggested by our correspondent, the guilty official will be placed beyond the opportunity of a repetition of his dishonorable practices.

[ED. MAIL.]

THE Special Agent of the Department, for California, C. W. Strons, Esq., is picking up some of the light-fingered gentry, who have got into the post offices in that section. One of the recent arrests was that of a clerk in the Orville post office, who had rifled letters on a scale somewhat extensive. His name is Thomas Mitchell. He was sent to prison, and soon afterwards committed suicide by opening a blood-vessel in his arm with a piece of glass.

WOODEN STAMPS.—We have always considered wood the best material for stamps used in post-marking and cancelling, especially for service in a large majority of post offices. The impression is clearer, and the use of such stamps more satisfactory, than when made from brass or steel. They are also much cheaper.

The advertisement of E. S. Zevely, Esq., in this paper, will tell the reader how to obtain not only post offices, but other wooden stamps, copying presses, &c.

PERSONS in the large cities in which the Department has provided letter-boxes upon lamp-posts or elsewhere, should bear in mind that unless a one-cent stamp is affixed to a letter deposited therein, or in a sub-post office station, (in addition to the regular postage, if to be sent by mail) it will be "held for postage." If to be delivered in the same city where written or posted, a one-cent stamp only is required. But the carrier's fee for delivery (one cent) cannot be prepaid, if the letter is intended to go by mail.

Although the following has no direct connection with postal matters, still its insertion may be of service, inasmuch as treasury notes of all denominations are liable to be offered to postmasters, in official transactions:

HOW TO DETECT ALTERED TREASURY NOTES.—As publicity has been given to a statement of the appearance of counterfeit Treasury notes—fifties and hundreds, raised from ones and twos—the following details (says the *National Intelligencer*) are furnished, showing the most prominent points of difference between the lesser and larger notes alleged to have been altered: "The ones and hundreds are so totally dissimilar in the main features that, whatever skill or ingenuity may be brought to bear by this process of raising or changing the larger figures that indicate the value of the note, no change is likely in the most skillful artistic portions. The portrait of Secretary Chase, in an oval frame in the extreme left-hand upper corner of the one dollar note, is its distinct, exclusive characteristic. In the one hundred dollar note, occupying a like position on the upper left corner, the prominent device is the figure of a single eagle, with outspread wings. These distinctions can be easily remembered.

"Between the twos and fifties there are points of resemblance, especially as the portrait of the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, is common to both denominations, and is the only prominent pictorial device upon either. A glance at the position of this portrait upon the two dollar note shows that the oval frame of the picture rests upon the extreme lower edge of the note, the miso title, 'The United States,' being above the picture; whereas in the fifty, the portrait is placed in the upper part of the note, nearly at the top, while the words of the main title are separated by it. The word 'United' is upon the left, and 'States' upon the right of the portrait. The difference in the back of the twos and fifties is so marked that observation of that of the two, with its two concentric rings and its two broad bands of geometric engraving, would be readily made as an exclusive feature, as totally unlike that of the fifty, or any other note issued by the government."

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. III. No. 5.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1863.

WHOLE No. 29.

The Annual Report.

We conclude below our extracts from the Report of the Postmaster General:

POST OFFICE BUILDINGS.

The post office building at New York has been enlarged, materially increasing its accommodations, and at a very moderate cost, the contract having been made therefor for the sum of \$7,587.

The new building at Philadelphia is in progress, and is expected to be ready for occupancy early in the spring. It is hoped the entire cost of the alterations and enlargement of the building, accommodating the courts and the post office, will fall below \$50,000.

POSTAL REFORM.

An impression prevails that the mere adoption in England of the penny postage, has been the means of perfecting their postal system to its present degree of efficiency. I do not so regard it. The principle of uniformity, however, is important, and promotes both official and public convenience. It is the substitution of simplicity for complexity, and this is always improving and progressive.

But there are other potential elements, in my judgment, of the success of the English system. One is found in the fact that the *personnel* of their postal administration is more permanent, and the establishment is placed purely on a business footing. It is administered by experienced men. Once thoroughly instructed in the laws, the regulations, and their duties, the Department measures their claims to office by their continued fidelity and attention to its interests. In some branches of the service, candidates are admitted upon both a physical and mental examination of their qualifications. A medical officer examines the aspirants for clerkships, and for the places of carriers and laborers. Post office savings banks are connected with the establishment. Provision for life insurance, the premiums being deducted from weekly or monthly wages, is also a part of their system. They thus combine nearly all interests to procure a permanent and faithful devotion to duty.

In this country the people are more migratory, frequently changing their occupations as well as their residences. The number of resignations alone, during the year ending on the 30th of June, 1862, was 2,902, the removals 2,786, out of 19,973 officers in the loyal States and districts. The resignations were nearly fifteen per cent. of the whole number, and resignations and removals combined about twenty-eight per cent. of the whole number. The new employees must acquire a practical postal education, before they can promptly and accurately discharge their duties. It is evident that a system so liable to constant and large changes in its administration, must be defective in many elements of completeness. The theory of our Government reserves a direct official responsibility to the executive head, and that the term of office should be limited to the proper discharge of that responsibility. The principle is correct. But the proper compensatory principle requires retention of good officers, as truly as it requires the discharge of incompetent incumbents. This principle can be carried into effect only when public sentiment shall be so clear and uniform as to make itself felt by all public representatives influencing appointments.

LOW POSTAGE.

To this question I have given the most careful consideration during the past year, and have cheerfully received and entertained the various propositions coming to me from all sources in the interest of reform. I acknowledge my indebtedness to the gentlemen contributing them for many important suggestions. But they have failed to convince me that it is present duty, or sound policy, to reduce the rate of letter postage upon general correspondence from three cents to two cents, a reduction of one-third upon a low existing rate. Our present rate was adopted, and is still universally regarded, as a low postage. The revenues under it are steadily increasing in amount, and approximating the self-sustaining point, equivalent to expenditures. It is not regarded as onerous, in any degree, upon the correspondence of the country. The proposed reduction, therefore, not being made from an excess of revenues, would only compel the people to pay by a new property tax what they pay now, without complaint, in proportion to the amount of their correspondence. It would only shift the delinquency, to pay with the left hand what they now pay with the right.

These facts appear to me to settle the debate, so far as it rests upon the point of so-called "low" postage. The United States low rate, now established, is, in principle and in fact, the lowest postage hitherto adopted by any government.

Our system is defective, however, in the other branch of proposed reform—that of uniformity. In this respect I do not hesitate to recommend a change. But this term, again, is not absolute, but relative. Neither the English nor any other system is absolutely uniform. The practical question is one of the proper degree of approximation to uniformity.

From the best data accessible to me, the estimated loss of revenue from accrued postage on printed matter approximates two hundred thousand dollars annually. The loss principally arises from the failure of postmasters to collect quarterly in advance, as required by law, the small amounts due from subscribers, and for the unpaid transit of transient printed matter. In view of the certain collections of postage, prepayment on printed matter is more important than upon letters.

If it seemed to Congress practicable to combine the proper postage tariff with the internal tax upon newspapers, so as to leave them to pass free through the mails, this plan might prove satisfactory to publishers, and just to the revenue of the Department. If publishers would find it consistent with their interest to require the annual postal charge to be added to the price of publication, and collected there-with, they prepaying the postage upon their circulation, this would also remedy the evil. But with or without such change in legislation, I recommend a great reduction in the variety of rates on printed matter for domestic circulation, abolishing all distinction of rates based on different distances of transportation, adopt-

ing decimal rates conforming to the coinage of this country, instead of the fractional rates now prevailing, and equalizing the charges now varied according to distance.

I propose to submit to Congress the draft of a bill for that purpose as soon as the details are settled.

In further approximation to uniformity, I recommend that the postage upon transient newspapers and other printed matter, whether destined inland or abroad, be made uniform, except where fixed by conventional stipulations with foreign countries, and extended to cover all transient printed matter up to the weight of — ounces, except circulars, adding one rate for each additional — ounces, or fraction thereof, embracing manuscript copy and corrected proofs passing between publishers and authors, prepayment being required in all cases; and that circulars not exceeding three in number, and not exceeding the standard weight, pass at the same rate, with the right in the Postmaster General to provide by regulation a less rate for their delivery within the postal district where mailed, or through the mails, when deposited in large packages for that purpose.

To prevent injurious delays from the accidental omission of prepayment by stamps upon letters, the Postmaster General should be authorized to provide by regulation for forwarding unpaid letters, the rate in such cases being double the prepaid rate. The extra charge for forwarding a letter to its ultimate destination, following the party addressed, should be abolished.

In the draft of a bill which I propose to submit as above mentioned, these recommendations will appear with precision in extent and in rates.

I also recommend that all distinctions of rates of domestic letter postages based upon distances, as now to California and the Pacific coast, be abolished, so that the three cent single rate on mail letters shall be uniform within the United States, when prepaid.

I also recommend the abolition of the one cent carrier's fee for the delivery and collection of letters in cities, and in lieu of that annoying and dilatory tariff on delivered and collected letters, that the charge upon local (or drop) letters be made uniform at the prepaid rate of two cents; and that all prepaid mail and local letters shall be delivered and collected without charge by the carriers, they being paid by salaries. This will prepay and transfer the carrier's charge from mail to local letters in effect, greatly accelerate deliveries, and promote the public convenience. It may not be expedient at once to abolish box deliveries, but there is no reason apparent to me why the general delivery should not be at once universally made by carriers in cities and towns where they are employed.

I renew the recommendation made last year, that the franking privilege of postmasters be abolished, except for correspondence between them and other officers of the Department, upon official business.

It should be abolished, also, as to the correspondence of all persons addressed to the several departments and executive officers of Government, except upon official correspondence, addressed by an officer of the Government.

Both these privileges, as they now exist, have been much abused, and have no proper place in a correct postal system.

The system of adjusting post office accounts and postmasters' pay, by commissions, varying upon different classes of mail matter, is no longer of utility commensurate with its labor and its cost. I am satisfied that the blanks and the clerical service consumed by this system contribute largely to swell expenditures, and contribute nothing at all to efficiency or to revenue.

The data that system has furnished up to this time, will afford the basis for ascertaining the proper salaries to be assigned to at least four-fifths of the offices of the country, and the rule for adjusting the remainder, whose revenues and business may be too variable for precise compensation. Here their utility terminates. Our system in this particular should be radically changed; and I hope the change may be authorized by law. It will produce economy, facility and simplicity.

I propose, also, a partial change in the mode of mailing letters, involving the disuse of way-bills in part, which, if successful, will largely reduce the consumption, and consequently the expense, of blanks, wrapping-paper, and twine.

I have ordered the topographer of the Department to prepare a set of postal maps, by States or groups of States, designed to show all the permanent postal routes, postal distances, and post offices thereon, in the United States, and embracing other statistical information. Their utility to the Department and to the public will be great; and I ask authority from Congress to copyright them in the name of the Postmaster General, to put them on sale at a moderate price, to be regulated by him, and to pass the proceeds of sales to the credit of the post office revenue. As they will be published in series, and the proceeds of sale will go for reimbursement, no other appropriation will be needed than that allowed for miscellaneous payments.

I have postponed the publication of the list of post offices in the United States, heretofore made biennially, with a view to change the form and diminish the frequency of publication. It is now in the press. The laws and regulations will be separately published after the expiration of this Congress, in a revised form. These works are frequently sought for by the public, and frequently lost by postmasters to whom they have been delivered. In one case there should be authority to sell; and in the other to charge the value against the postmaster in his accounts, and to charge him also in case of any second delivery of the book to him.

It is my purpose to adhere firmly to my determination to displace incompetency and indifference wherever found in official position under my control, without any discrimination in favor of appointments which I may myself have made under misinformation of facts. The postal business must be conducted, if successful, upon the same principles which control the operations of the upright and sagacious man of business.

The Department should adhere to those officers who have administrative talents, and are faithful to its interests; and should remove those who take no interest in the efficiency of its service. The number of its appointed officers and employees is so great, and dispersed over so large a territory, that the Postmaster General must always depend upon the co-operation of the public, and particularly of the official advisers of the Department, in order to secure this result.

The South Danvers Case.

We gave in our last issue a brief account of the detection of a burglar at South Danvers, Mass., who unfortunately managed to escape arrest, and among whose effects were found ample proofs that he alone was responsible for numerous thefts of letters from the post office of that place, for which the late postmaster and his assistant had been indicted. We publish below an interesting letter from a correspondent, which gives the details of this remarkable case:

"At the beginning of last year, the postmaster of this place began to receive complaints of the loss of letters mailed and sent to this office, and being then a new incumbent, did the best in his power to appease the sufferers, by assuring them that everything in his office was all right, but to no purpose. Complaints continuing, and becoming even more numerous, it was finally thought by the friends of the postmaster that he had better relinquish the office—which he did in the latter part of May last. I should have observed that the postmaster, Mr. Ordway, had tried the usual methods resorted to in such cases, and satisfied himself and the public that guilt was clearly traceable to this office. A successor was appointed, and proceedings against the supposed malefactor were instituted.—There were several indictments against them, (father and son, postmaster and assistant), one of which was tried, and a verdict of not guilty returned. While under trial, the son, who was the party more directly accused, was occupying a felon's cell in Suffolk county jail. When this verdict was rendered, he was released under bonds, and further trial deferred to some indefinite time.

The successor had occupied the office for a period of four or five weeks, when a citizen came storming in one evening, and demanded to know what had become of the letter addressed to Greenfield, N. H., containing \$3.00, and put into the post office on a Monday evening a few weeks before. Looking upon the record of mails sent, no letter to such a place, at such a time, was there entered. Rather than have the man go angrily away, the amount said to be lost was refunded, the postmaster believing that the letter would some day prove to have been incorrectly addressed, and eventually turn up from the dead letter office. Within a week, however, another case occurred, and, soon after, one or two others, when the assistant suggested that the office must be entered during the night, and, in that belief, so arranged the letters one night that, when they were disturbed, it was discovered the ensuing morning. On the morning in question, a pile of letters which had been placed face to face, were found with the superscriptions all upturned. Certainty now took the place of suspicion, and it was deemed the next thing requisite to discover the rogue. Accordingly, the postmaster stationed himself in a small room adjoining the post office, on a night in August, for that purpose, but no one came. The next night the assistant watched, and between twelve and one o'clock heard the noise of an opening door, and soon became aware that the burglar was present, and pursuing the object of his midnight raid. The watcher's purpose was to discover who the person was, and so was all that could be seen. Upon going into the office, letters were found scattered about, and in the door a false key, which was left behind in the hasty exodus of the nocturnal visitor.

Since then no further depredations at the post office have been committed. A short time since, however, a member of a shoe firm that had lost money from their safe, from time to time, with a constable of the town, while watching at the factory of the former, there discovered the thief, and had their hands upon him, when he wrested himself from the grasp of one, while the other was striking a light, jumped through a window fifteen feet from the ground, and as yet has not been recaptured. He was identified as a parson named Cate, a journeyman carpenter, hitherto supposed to be a good citizen, and remarkable only for skillfulness at his trade. His trunks were searched, and among a perfect curiosity shop of stolen articles, a splendid rifle was found a mould by which the key to the post office was made, and the burglaries effected. A record was also found, where in were noted the places he had entered.—among them the post offices—and times of entering, together with memoranda, in many cases, of the articles taken, or, when in money, the amount. By this discovery you will see that the persecuted postmaster and his son, after great anxiety and expense, are now exonerated from one of the most heinous of crimes. You may imagine how rejoiced they are at being thus re-instated in the public estimation, and what a fervent the public estimation, and what a fervent are all the circumstances of the affair have created in this town. As for the guilty man, we think him a most accomplished rogue, and trust he will soon be successfully arrested, and dealt with as he deserves.

Yours truly,

C.

The circumstances of this case will probably cause it to become as famous among down-east lawyers as the celebrated "Vermont case," so often referred to by them when they have an

unusually "tough subject" in the criminal line to defend; and the tribulations of the South Danvers postmaster will no doubt be often related to the jury, as an example of the danger of fondling conviction upon circumstantial evidence. But, for the benefit of those representing the government in future similar cases, we would remark the fact that, notwithstanding all the suspicious circumstances of the affair, justice was after all vindicated, by the acquittal of the party wrongfully accused.

DEATH OF AN OLD OFFICIAL.—We notice in the New London, Conn., papers, an announcement of the death of Mr. Isaac Treby, for more than twenty-seven years a clerk in the post office in that city. He resigned his position some time since, in consequence of impaired health.

This veteran officer served, in his humble sphere, under no less than seven postmasters, and a greater number of Administrations. No matter how often the inexorable political rule of "rotation" changed the head of the establishment, "Uncle Treby" remained a fixture, and served to reconcile any dissatisfaction caused by the change. The public confidence in him was entire and universal. Every "man, woman and child" felt that their letters were safe, and their post office privileges and secrets sacredly protected in his hands. Nor were his personal presence and watchfulness confined to the usual business hours. He was without a family, and for a long time slept in the office. More than fifteen years ago, and while the post office was kept in the old-fashioned, dilapidated building on Main street, Uncle Treby had what appeared to be a very narrow escape from burglars. They effected an entrance through a back window, within a few feet of the spot where he was sleeping, and were fairly in, and between him and the main letter room, before he was aware of their presence. Knowing that but few letters, or little booty of any kind, were exposed in that direction—the money and letters supposed to be valuable having been carefully secreted the evening before, according to his usual practice—and hearing several voices, he concluded that discretion was the better part of valor, and, snoring away, kept his couch until the unwelcome visitors had completed their search, and passed out through a front door.—After waiting a reasonable time, a light was procured, when it was discovered that they had left their compliments in the shape of an ugly-looking club, heavily loaded with lead, lying upon the foot of the bed, to be used, no doubt, in case of any alarm or resistance.

In all the relations of life, private as well as public, Mr. Treby set a worthy example of uniform kindness and fidelity, and has left behind him what is better than riches—an unblemished reputation.

Part-paid Letters.

The following remarks of a correspondent, in regard to the proper construction of an important Regulation of the Department, we recommend to the attention of all postmasters. A decision in accordance with the views of the writer was some time since rendered by the Department:

Allow me to suggest one thing, with the hope that it may appear in your columns. The act of March 3, 1855, says that—"In lieu of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates, to wit:—For every single letter in manuscript," &c., "conveyed in the mail for any distance between places in the United States not exceeding three thousand miles, three cents; and for any distance exceeding three thousand miles, ten cents." This law, you will observe, in the preliminary sentence, declares that letters shall be charged with postage by rates, and the section clearly specifies what those rates are—i. e., three or ten cents, according to distance. The Regulations (section 106) of the Post Office Department, however, say that—"Letters part-paid should be despatched, charged with the additional postage," &c. This Regulation is wholesome and correct; but it was not the design of the framers of it to authorize postmasters to violate the law upon which the Regulation is founded. Postmasters generally assume that letters prepaid one cent or two cents only come under the control of the Regulation, and should be sent forwarded, up due two cents or one cent, as the case may be. It is a practice at variance with the letter and the spirit of the law. The intention of the law is manifest—to compel prepayment of postage at the reduced rates then adopted. It is wise and proper. The Regulation referred to simply permits letters insufficiently prepaid, (that is, at least one rate), and that the writers have not always at hand the proper means of testing whether their letters weigh each over or under a half-ounce, an ounce, and so on, to be despatched, the additional rates due to be collected at the office of delivery. The wording of the Regulation evidently implies this. The Regulation has this further clause—"Unless the omission to pay the correct amount is known to have been intentional, when they should be treated as letters wholly unpaid." This adds force to the language of the section, and decides the question; for every one knows that it requires three cents to prepay a letter. Hence the Regulation does not mean to annul (which it cannot do) the law which declares that letters shall be charged with rates according to distance, and defines those rates. If rates are to be levied on all letters by law, then a fractional payment of a rate can not be recognized; and, although such

fractional payment is not lost to the sender, such letters should be treated as unpaid. This should be known by postmasters, and the practice of despatching letters with a one cent stamp (or two cents) affixed would be discontinued.

G. B. A.

The English Postal System.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL:—I have read in your paper several extracts from English papers, showing, on English authority, that the postal system of that country, which is so much boasted of, is, in some particulars, very defective.

In a recent number of the London Times, I found the following complaint of a correspondent, which shows what a sudden mortality overtakes a certain class of letters in the British post office. If letters imperfectly addressed were at once returned to the dead letter office, and destroyed instantly, in this country, as in England, we should hear additional criticisms, and severe ones, on the glaring imperfections in our postal system. If the defects existed in our system, that have been shown in your paper, from English authority, as belonging to the British system, the whole country would demand a reform. The writer in the Times says:

To the EDITOR OF THE TIMES:—Several of your correspondents have expressed anxiety to learn what becomes of letters in the direction of which there may be a slight error, the new post office ruling being that the Department is not bound to trace out the person for whom the communication is intended. My experience may be of service in affording them the information they desire. A letter was forwarded to my address, the particulars of which were correctly stated on the envelope, as were likewise my Christian name and surname; the only error being that my correspondent mistook these for the names of members of a firm, instead of those of a single individual, and divided them accordingly. The postman was told by the messenger who answered his knock, that the chambers belonged to the gentleman whose name was on the letter, but he was not in a position to clear up the point about the Christian names. The postman accordingly took away the letter, and made a "returned letter" of it—a term of which I now understand the full significance. Two days afterwards, when I came to town, I heard of the circumstance, and made immediate application personally and by letter to the postal authorities. Eleven days elapsed before I received any official reply. I had in the meantime ascertained from the postman that the facts I have here detailed were accurate in every particular, and that the letter was lodged by him, with some report of the circumstances, at headquarters. The following was the answer forwarded to me from the General Post Office:

"Sir: In reply to your letter of the 7th inst., I beg leave to inform you that inland letters, as a rule, disposed of in the Returned Letter Branch of this Department on the day on which they reach that office, being returned to the writers, if their addresses are properly given, and being in other cases destroyed.

"No record is kept of any letter sent to the Returned Letter Branch, unless they are found to contain something of value.

"Letters from abroad are returned at stated periods to the countries where they originated.

"Unless, therefore, the letter to which you refer contained value, or was sent from abroad, it is impossible now to obtain any trace of it in this office.

"I am, Sir, your obedient, humble servant,

"ROWLAND HILL, Secretary."

The postmaster of Gardner, Me., writes us as follows:

"I believe my subscription for the UNITED STATES MAIL closed last month, and I desire to renew it. It is one of the most valuable papers, to me, that comes into my office. I cannot do without it, as it contains so much valuable information relating to the duties of postmasters. It ought to be in the hands of every postmaster in the country, and it would be, it seems to me, if they understood its value."

Letter Addresses.

If this confounded stamp don't stick, 'Twill be a mean, infernal trick; I then will be a three-cent doct, Without 'tis called a "Soldier's Letter." This to my wife in New York city—(I trust you'll understand my ditty)—The street is eastern Forty-nine, And number 20, known as mine. See postage stamp—three cents the score, For this you'll take it to the door, And then another cent you'll claim—You'll get it, sure, from my good dame. Now, postman, haste, speed on thy way! Deliver me near New Year's day.

(Written across the back.)

Let no base, searching knave or scold This sacred mailage unfold; But let the rightful owner take it, And into shreds and patches break it, If she so chooses— So says my muso.

Please, Uncle Sam, this letter take, And bear it to my wife; I left my darling for your sake— For you I pledged my life. Her given name is Lucy Ann, Her husband's name is Lowe, The self-same chap, good Uncle Sam, His fighting for you now. In Almond, Alleghany Co., New York, shides my dear; Do drop this at that same P. O., And send an answer here.

Please carry this letter with rapid rate To Fryeburg, Maine, the pine tree State; If Sarah Smith you do not see, Please send this hawk at once to me.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 1863.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR.—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Esq.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:
Ordered, That the Assistant Postmaster General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

Special Notice.

No doubt many of the patrons of the MAIL are at a loss to know exactly how their accounts stand on our books. We have no way of telling them individually but to send to each a bill, the labor of which we desire to avoid if possible. In most cases they must know about the time their subscription commenced, and how much they have paid in the aggregate, and the best way is, on being satisfied that the current year has not been promptly paid, to enclose a dollar, which will be promptly credited. We assure our readers that the MAIL would not be a profitable "institution" even were we to get our exact dues. The prospect is that it will pay better by and by.

We are now on the fifth number of the third volume, and yet some distant subscribers have paid for the first year only. We beg all our readers to bear in mind the advance principle adopted at the commencement, and also that our receipts, unlike other papers, are almost entirely from subscriptions.

IMPORTANT ORDER FROM THE DEPARTMENT.—The following order from Gov. RANDALL will serve as an answer to the many inquiries we have received as to the proper rates of postage to be paid on packages of clothing, &c., sent in the mails to soldiers and others:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
APPOINTMENT OFFICE, Washington, Jan. 3, 1863.
Many postmasters persist in sending through the mails packages of clothing, books, &c., charging thereon only one cent an ounce for postage. This is a palpable violation of the law and regulations, which every postmaster should be familiar with. The packages are held for the legal postage at the distributing offices or office of delivery, accumulating to such an extent as to be greatly annoying to these offices, and in a large majority of cases never reach the parties addressed, thus causing a loss to the parties sending.

The laws and regulations clearly define what is mailable matter, and prescribe what amount of postage is to be charged thereon, and further provides that all other matter or thing, if sent by mail, is subject to letter postage. To prevent further loss to parties interested, and the improper interruption of business at the large offices, all postmasters are required to make themselves fully acquainted with the laws and regulations relating to the postal service; and the mailing of packages hereafter of the character referred to, by any postmaster, without the proper postage being prepaid by postage stamps, will be considered good cause for removal.

ALEX. W. RANDALL,
First Assistant P. M. General.

THE GOVERNMENT TAX AS APPLICABLE TO POSTMASTERS.—We have received from the Department the following instructions to postmasters, regarding the requirements of the law for the payment of the revenue tax on their salaries. We are requested to state that by the words "your own compensation as postmaster," is meant the net income of the latter from his office, being the whole amount of his receipts from commissions and emoluments, after deducting the cost of clerk hire and the incidental expenses. Many inquiries are made by postmasters on this point. This answer may be considered as official:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, 1863.
SIR.—In pursuance of the provisions of the 85th section of the act of Congress approved July 1, 1862, as construed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue in a communication to this Department dated November 24, 1862, you are hereby directed to deduct and withhold from all payments for their services to persons employed in your office, as well as from your own compensation as postmaster, whenever such payments or compensation exceed the rate of six hundred dollars per annum, the sum of three per centum on the excess above the said six hundred dollars.

The amount thus withheld should be, without delay, remitted to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, or deposited with an Assistant Treasurer or designated Depository in the United States, to the credit of the "Treasurer of the United States" on account of "Tax on Salaries," and the original certificate of deposit forwarded to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, D. C. The duplicate certificate is to be retained.

You will also transmit to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue a quarterly statement of the amount of the tax withheld from the salary of each and every person in your office. Blank forms for such statement (a specimen of which is herewith transmitted) may be procured on application to the Commissioner of this Department.

The receipts obtained from the Commissioner for the sums paid him agreeably to these instructions are to be forwarded to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, in order that your account may be credited with the several amounts stated in such receipts.

On making your next regular payment of salaries, you will deduct the amount of the tax due thereon from the 1st of September, 1862, to the date of such payment.

Yours respectfully,
M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A correspondent at Annapolis, Md., asks sundry questions regarding foreign postage rates, answers to which we are obliged to defer until our next issue.

The Army and the Mails.

The necessity for the stringent official Order, inserted in another column, concerning unusual packages, addressed to soldiers, sent through the mails to the army, is no doubt regretted by the chief officers of the Department as much as by the soldiers and their anxious relations and friends. But existing laws, which control the matter, leave no margin for the exercise on the part of the Postmaster General, of liberal and benevolent sentiments and inclinations. These laws do not recognize the products of boot and shoe or stocking manufactories as mailable matter, and hence they have no more legal right in the mails, than any other ordinary parcels usually carried by Express Companies. An effort has been made in Congress, however, to favor the poor soldier in this particular, and we think the almost unanimous consent of the people could be obtained in support of the measure. Some weeks since, Hon. Mr. COLFAX introduced a bill into the House giving the Postmaster General authority to permit articles weighing not over 4 lbs., not now included in the schedule of "mailable matter," to be sent through the mails at one cent per ounce. The distinguished author of the bill briefly advocated its passage, remarking that:

"It is asked of Congress that those who have friends in the army may be allowed to send through the mails articles which are not now included in the schedule of mail matter. The existing law is very strict in providing what is mailable matter. At the last Congress, the schedule was extended so as to embrace maps upon rollers, seeds and cuttings, phonographic paper, &c., not over four pounds in weight, at one cent per ounce. But the law does not include a number of little things which friends at home would like to send to their friends in the army, and the bill authorizes the Postmaster General to permit such articles to pass through the mails as additional mailable matter. It properly leaves the subject to the discretion of the Postmaster General, who will, of course, exercise it judiciously. There can be no reason founded on principle, why books less than four pounds in weight should be allowed in the mails at one cent per ounce, and boots of the same weight, for a soldier, prohibited. Why admit seeds and cuttings, often with damp earth around them, at one cent per ounce, and prohibit stockings and mittens, sent by loved friends at home to their soldier kinsmen in this wintry season, or only allow it at letter postage rates, six cents per ounce? Maps on rollers, the most inconvenient and vexatious of all mailable matter, are permitted at one cent per ounce; why not a fannel shirt as well, when it is doubly valuable as a memento of affection and a preservative? Express companies do not always follow armies, nor can they always deliver packages to the soldiers. I think I need not add any argument to this plain presentation of facts, but hope the bill will be at once unanimously passed. A similar bill, reported by me, passed this House at its last session, but failed in the Senate. I hope now it may, if passed here, meet with better success at the other end of the Capitol."

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time; and being engrossed, it was accordingly read the third time, and passed.

The remaining history of this bill is brief, though we rather regret it did not finally succeed, even as a temporary relief to the brave men whom it was intended to benefit. On reaching the Senate it was referred to the Post Office Committee, and soon reported upon unfavorably by Judge COLLAMER, the Chairman.—We have not seen the Senator's objections stated, but conclude they were strong ones, judging from the proverbial sound judgment and fairness of that experienced gentleman in postal affairs. It may be that he considered it unjust to mail contractors throughout the country, to require them to transport merchandise under existing contracts, or impolitic to afford them pretexts for demanding greater compensation.

Hereafter, we conclude that but few persons will be found willing to incur the expense of sending heavy parcels at letter postage, but that some other and cheaper modes will be found available.

UNPAID PRINTED MATTER.—From an inquiry received from a Massachusetts postmaster, it is evident that a very plainly worded paragraph in our January number, relating to unpaid printed matter, has been misconstrued. We said: "Such matter should be rated at the receiving office, and postage collected in money on delivery." By "receiving office" was meant, not that in which it is originally deposited, but that at which it arrives. Of course, postmasters have no right to mail printed matter unless it is prepaid; but if, through ignorance or carelessness, or from any cause, it is sent forward, postage is then to be demanded on delivery.

MINOR'S LETTERS.—Another inquiry, from the same source, refers to a parent's request to a postmaster to detain letters addressed to or deposited by a minor child.

The law does not allow of the detention, designedly, of any class of letters passing through a post office, no matter to whom addressed.—Technically speaking, parents have no legal right to open letters not addressed to themselves; and yet, should they do so on their own responsibility, in respect to their children's correspondence, the writer would undoubtedly be all-controlling in case of a prosecution. Some of the State Courts have favorably considered this parent's right, but we are not aware of any such opinion on the part of the Federal Judges.

It may be a hard thing to say that a respectable, anxious father or mother may control a child in everything else but in a clandestine correspondence, the unrestrained exercise of which act might be fraught with misery, disgrace and utter ruin. In fact the fruits of this kind of freedom are known to be most mischievous, demoralizing and wide-spread. It does not follow, however, that because parental authority is insufficient to cure this evil, the aid of a post office official can be demanded, in violation of law and duty.

The only safe rule, after all, is to deliver letters to the parties addressed, or to those authorized to receive them. We should consider a parent of a minor as so authorized, in the absence of any law to the contrary.

Weighting and Rating Letters.

A New England correspondent addresses us on an important subject, upon which information is asked. As it relates to a rule affecting materially the interests of the citizen as well as the revenues of the Department, we will give the inquiry as it is sent us:

DEAR SIR.—Thinking I might obtain an answer more readily than through the Department at Washington, permit me to inquire of you whether it is in accordance with the true intent of the law for postmasters to charge double postage on a letter weighing just half an ounce? I frequently find this to be the case, and upon remembrance, learn that it is the practice of many postmasters to double, treble, or quadruple, as the case may be, all letters weighing just half an ounce, or once and a half. I received a letter from Havana a few days ago, by steamship to New York, weighing, by our post office scales, just one and a half ounces, marked "Due 40."

It would seem as though the law was plain—a single postage entitling a letter to weigh half an ounce, no more; a double postage, one ounce and no more; and a treble postage, one and a half ounce and no more—and so on. An early reply will oblige our postmaster here, and gratify myself.

Section 1 of the act of March 3, 1855, provides that "every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter"—which is so plain a statement, that a charge of double postage on a letter weighing "just half an ounce" would be an unexcusable violation of law on the part of any postmaster. We are inclined to think that the grievance of our correspondent is the result of an imperfect understanding of the mode in which the post office balances are intended to operate. A letter weighing just half an ounce, when laid in the scale, will not, or should not, cause the balance to vary from the horizontal, when the weight on the rod is placed at the half-ounce notch—it being intended to support just that weight and no more. But if the balance is disturbed when a letter is laid (not thrown) in the scale, so that it will not remain at the horizontal, but tips down, or even oscillates, it is evidence that the letter exceeds half an ounce in weight, and consequently is chargeable with more than single postage. The weight, being then placed at the second, or ounce notch, the same test will decide whether a double rate is sufficient. This rule of course applies also to the quarter-ounce rates and balances.

MR. EDITOR:—Please answer the following inquiries in the Mail for February, and oblige a subscriber:

1st. If a husband requests that letters received per mail, addressed to his wife, be delivered to him without her knowledge, is it proper for the postmaster to comply with the request, when no orders in relation to the matter have been given by the wife?

2. If the wife requests that all letters addressed to herself be delivered to her, should they be so delivered, even if the husband had previously given orders that they should be retained and delivered to him?

These are very natural and somewhat important questions, as they are apt to arise at any time, and at any post office. The proper rule is to deliver letters only to parties addressed, or to their authorized agents. See section 79 of the Standing Regulations. But those instructions do not settle the above points. If we were a postmaster, we should not regard the request of a husband not to deliver a letter to his wife, if properly addressed to her; neither should we withhold a husband's letter by direction of the wife. It will readily be seen that such a course might result in great injury to the rights—domestic and pecuniary—of the party whose letters might thus be given up to the control of the suspicious or designing partner.

A curious decision was recently given by United States Commissioner WOODBURY, of Boston, in a case where a revengeful wife allowed her husband to be arrested for having clandestinely opened a letter intended for and addressed to her. The Commissioner discharged the accused on the ground that, as the husband and wife were one, the law did not apply, and the penalties could not be enforced! But it will hardly do for postmasters to depend too much on the same view being taken by all magistrates.

As the Department will soon issue a new book of postal laws and regulations, we shall delay a summary of those regulations until we can speak from the book. By the help of this important guide and other expected facilities, we hope to render the Mail much more serviceable and interesting than heretofore.

We shall be obliged to postmasters who receive the paper regularly and approve of it, if they will recommend it to others in their several neighborhoods.

LETTERS BY CARRIERS.—In our last issue, in giving some statistics of the business in the New York post office, the number of letters delivered by Carriers was arranged in such connection with other footings, as to give the impression that the figures stated represented the Carriers' work for the year, instead of for a single quarter. The whole number of letters delivered through the Carriers' department, which were received by the mails, for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1862, was 6,794,720; city or drop letters, 2,169,583. Total, 8,964,303.

MAILS TO BEAUFORT, NEWBERN, PORT ROYAL.—Two new and elegant steamships—the "Angusta Dinsmore" and the "Mary Sanford"—built for the Adams Express Company, have lately commenced running to the above ports from New York, carrying the U. S. Mails. The reputation of this enterprising company is a sufficient guarantee that "celerity, certainty, and security" will henceforth be the order of the day on this route.

The days of sailing of the above steamers can be ascertained by the advertisements in the public prints from time to time.

NEW POST ROAD TO THE CAPITAL.—A project is before Congress for building a national post and military road between Washington and New York, under authority derived from the Constitution for the establishment of post roads. The subject has been referred to a Special Committee of the House, of which the Hon. Mr. FEXTON, of this State, is Chairman.

It is claimed that the facilities at present furnished by existing rail road companies, are inadequate to the pressing postal and military necessities of the Government. Whether it is in the power of these companies to extend their accommodations, so as fully to meet the public wants, remains to be seen. With a double track for the entire distance, improved rolling stock, greater despatch and regularity, and proper attention to the comfort of passengers, the expense of a new route might, we think, be avoided.—We should judge that such is the opinion of the Postmaster General, from a communication made by that officer to Congress since the subject has been under consideration. He thinks the managers are disposed to do all in their power to meet the public demands. In answer to a call from the House, he gives the following information, showing the compensation paid to each of the companies for conveying the mails:

"The annual cost of mail transportation to New York is \$93,050, of which \$13,500 is paid to the New Jersey Railroad and Transportation Company; \$20,250 to the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad Company; \$37,500 to the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Company; \$12,000 to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, and \$9,800 to the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company. In addition, \$6,873 is given to local agents and messengers, and \$7,200 to route agents. Total, \$196,173."

"HEAVY DAYS."—Some idea will be given of the immense labor in the New York post office, when the fact is mentioned, that on Tuesday last, in addition to the usual work, there were received by steamer from Newbern, N. C., 66,000 letters; Port Royal, 16,000; and three mails from New Orleans by different steamers bringing about 15,000—making, in all, nearly 100,000 extra letters in one day. On the following morning, by the arrival of the Saxonia with the European mails, were received over 30,000 letters.

On some of these "heavy" days, when it so happens that four or five steamers' mails are arriving and departing, besides the ordinary business of this mammoth establishment, a stranger—on viewing the ponderous stacks of letter packages, thousands of the contents to be re-mailed to various points in this and other countries—the wonder would be how so great a degree of despatch and accuracy as exists, could, on such occasions at least, be depended on by the public.

PHILADELPHIA POST OFFICE.—By the politeness of C. A. WALBORN, Esq., postmaster of Philadelphia, we have received the following official items relating to the business of that office, for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1862:

Amount of postage on mails sent during last quarter, \$60,570; during corresponding quarter of last year, \$44,470.

Amount of postage on mails received, \$66,655; during corresponding quarter of last year, \$48,078.

Amount of stamps and envelopes sold, 75,530; during corresponding quarter of last year, \$63,940.

Number of drop letters received and delivered, 747,400; during corresponding quarter of last year, 261,000. Total number during 1862, 2,670,319; 1861, 986,255.

ED. U. S. MAIL:—Please inform me through the columns of the Mail to whom stamped envelopes which have been spoiled by wrong direction, &c., should be returned, in order to get the proper credit?

We reply that it is not made the duty of a postmaster to exchange or purchase spoiled government envelopes, and we know of no way in which offices can obtain credit therefor, even should they receive them. By an arrangement with the envelope contractor in this city, the New York office receives and exchanges such stamped envelopes as have been spoiled by wrong directions, &c., and which have never been used to convey letters.—ED. MAIL.

THE MONEY ORDER BILL.—Senator COLLAMER, Chairman of the Post Office Committee, to which was referred the bill providing for the establishment of a post office Money Order system, has reported it back, with the recommendation that it do not pass.

Probably want of time will prevent action the present session on this and some of the other proposed changes in our postal system suggested in the late Report of the Postmaster General.

FOREIGN CONSULS.—It has been suggested that the MAIL would be very useful to our Foreign Consuls and other U. S. representatives abroad, especially on account of the accurate official tables of domestic and foreign postage. Constant applications for information on this subject, we are told, is made to such agents of our government, by citizens of all nations, and we are at a loss to know how those inquired of manage to keep posted, when the rates are liable to such frequent changes.

We shall send copies of the paper to a portion of the diplomatic corps, as specimen numbers, and shall be most happy to receive their orders.

Parties designing to prepay postage on letters, occasionally cut out the centre-piece, or venerable head, from a five or ten cent "postal currency" stamp, and attach it to the letter, instead of employing the ordinary postage stamp. The motive is not fraudulent, of course, but the law does not sanction the proceeding, nor recognize the currency stamp for this use, and it must therefore be rejected by postmasters.

FICTITIOUS NAMES.—We are asked by a postmaster whether, in case of a person claiming a letter with a certain fictitious address, and stating that it is intended for himself, although he is personally well known by another name, it is right to deliver such letter.

In reply we would remark, that instances are so very rare in which the employment of other than real names in correspondence is justifiable, and the motive, when harmless even, is necessarily so foreign to the legitimate objects of the mail and post office, that the practice should be discouraged in all proper ways. Under general instructions, a postmaster has the right to refuse to deliver a letter to any other than the party addressed, or his authorized agent. A reference to sections 79 and 80 of the Standing Rules will enlighten postmasters on this subject. By the last of these, letters addressed to fictitious persons or firms, or to no particular person or firm, are to be returned to the dead letter office. We will not say that the Department withholds from postmasters all option, in cases where they are satisfied that none but the most honorable motives exist—as, for instance, the detection of frauds and swindles carried on through the post office.

RATING DOMESTIC LETTERS.—By an examination, for some time, of letters arriving at the New York post office for distribution, with particular reference to the correctness of the postage rates charged thereon, it appears that much carelessness exists at a large number of offices where such letters were originally mailed. In a great many instances letters were found to have been undercharged, and unless "charged up" at the offices of final delivery, a heavy loss to the Government, in the aggregate, would result from such negligence at the mailing offices. From an estimate made, based upon these discoveries at this point, it would seem that the revenues of the department suffer annually to the amount of at least \$5,000 on "short-paid" distribution letters, received at the New York office alone. A portion of this sum is no doubt saved eventually, though such demands for extra postage, beyond the original rating, is most annoying to postmasters, often renders explanations necessary, and causes inconvenience to the citizens.

The time for exact justice is clearly when a letter is first mailed. We are satisfied that more vigilance is required in this respect, but the offices of final delivery should endeavor not to allow such neglect of duty on the part of others to escape their attention and the application of the proper remedy.

Among our subscribers to the Mail, is the distinguished Superintendent of the Insane Retreat at Hartford, Conn., J. S. BUTLER, M. D. The doctor writes us as follows:

"I thank you for your paper, for the valuable information it contains, and the happy and efficient manner in which it is conducted. It has been of great use to me in my limited correspondence. It should be in every counting-room in the land having foreign correspondents. May it ever prosper."

MACHINE FOR STAMPING LETTERS.—An ingenious contrivance for post-marking letters and cancelling postage stamps, has been in operation in the New York office recently. It is kept in motion with the foot, and requires two persons to operate it—one to arrange the letters, and the other to adjust them for receiving the stamp. It is as much work to feed it as it would be to feed a small family of children.—This prevents it from stamping with sufficient rapidity to answer the purpose, in large offices at least, where despatch is so essential. In fact one of the experienced stamping clerks, on a race with the machine, stamped three to its one with the common hand-stamp.

If all letters were uniform in size, and the postage stamps always in the same place, there would be less difficulty in inventing a machine to do this important part of post office labor.

SYNOPSIS OF THE POSTAL BILL.—Senator COLLAMER'S Postal bill empowers the Postmaster General to appoint all postmasters whose annual salary is less than \$1,000; requires postmasters, mail agents and persons employed in the general post offices to make oath to their fidelity and loyalty; awards compensation in five classes—the first between \$4,000 and \$5,000, the second between \$3,000 and \$4,000, the third between \$2,000 and \$3,000, the fourth between \$1,000 and \$2,000, the fifth less than \$1,000; the salaries to be assigned by the Postmaster General from a comparison of average salaries of the four preceding years, and may be readjusted not often than once in two, these salaries to take effect in July next. In the offices of the first and second classes it is proposed to allow a just and reasonable sum for the cost of rent, fuel, lights, clerks, &c., and also to the offices of other classes which are distributing offices, for clerk hire; all box rents and other perquisites to be accounted for by the postmaster; the box rents and postage always prepaid; oath made to quarterly returns on penalty of perjury; the Postmaster General to regulate the periods during which dead letters shall remain in any post office; those containing valuable enclosures to be registered in the department, and when not returnable to writers or persons written to shall be included in receipts and be subject to reclamation; letter carriers to be appointed, and receiving offices and boxes established and provision made for carrying local newspapers and small packages; the rate of half-ounce letters, three cents; drop letters, two cents, and no carriers' fees allowed; registered letters to pay a fee of twenty cents; newspaper postage on weeklies, per quarter, five cents; semi-weeklies, ten cents; tri-weeklies, fifteen cents; dailies (six issues), thirty cents; four ounces to be the standard weight of periodicals; small papers sent in a package to one address charged at the same rate.

UNIONED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. III. No. 6.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1863.

WHOLE No. 30.

[Written for the U. S. Mail.]

JOE MARSDEN, THE MAIL-CARRIER: OR, ONE DAY TOO SOON.

Many years since, when the vast network of railroads which now extends its iron meshes over the greater portion of our country was merely a prophecy of the future, which few then living could hope to see fulfilled, and when the mails of the United States were for the most part carried by stage-coach, or horse on horseback after the fashion represented by the equestrian figure which forms the principal feature of the great seal of the Post Office Department, Joe Marsden was employed as mail carrier on a route extending northwardly from the town of L—, in one of the Eastern States, to the village of B—. The duties of his office consisted in traversing this route twice a week, making two or three deliveries and collections at small offices on his way—and these duties he performed to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. No matter what the state of the roads or the weather, his tough little Canadian pony was pretty sure to trot up to the doors of the various post offices on the route punctually at the appointed hour. Joe also acted as an express messenger, (it was at the pre-Adamsite period), and was entrusted with quite a number of small commissions and errands at almost every trip, and sometimes with money packages of considerable value. The income derived from this source, together with his salary as mail messenger, gained him a comfortable living, and had enabled him, moreover, to lay up quite a snug little surplus, with which he intended one day to realize his long-cherished dream of a farm of his own in the far West. For Joe, though apparently a plodding, lumbering sort of fellow, was, like most Yankees, ambitious, and had no idea of remaining a mail-carrier all his life.

At the time this story begins, he was about twenty-five years of age, and though the nature of his calling would seem to have been unfavorable to the growth of the tender passion in his breast, yet it had somehow found time to take root there; and Joe had already settled in his mind that when he had made his last trip, and was prepared to start for the land of promise across the Alleghenies, he would have a traveling companion—pretty Mary Dickson, namely, whose father kept a road-side tavern about two miles south of B—.

Joe had one day taken refuge in the tavern from a violent thunder-storm, and during the quarter of an hour that he was thus weather-bound, Mary did the honors of the house in the absence of her father. So gracefully did she play the hostess, that Joe, as he thoughtfully rode away, made up his mind that taking care of a home of her own would be a more appropriate sphere for the exercise of her talents than the charge of a country tavern, and that such a face was far too pretty to be allowed to waste its sweetness on such an ill-tempered Englishman as old Andrew Dickson. It was not many days after Joe called again at the tavern, and as he thought that Mary did not seem at all displeased at his second call, he made a third visit—in fact the sagacious pony soon came to understand that a new halting-place had been established on the route, and stopped there every trip of his own accord.

Joe was a good-looking fellow, and not particularly bashful; and his visits were necessarily of the shortest—he improved his time to such good purpose that, within a month of his first call, Mary owned to him her willingness to become Mrs. M., as soon as Joe's arrangements for departure were completed. This agreement was made without the knowledge of Mary's father, which of course was exceedingly wrong; but Joe had discovered that his intended father-in-law would be very likely to oppose the match—in fact he had given several hints to Joe of his disapproval of the intimacy between him and his daughter, and had expressed his ideas on the subject to Mary in still plainer terms—telling her that if she dared to marry that "blasted Yankee" he would frown her forever. Mary was not much frightened by this threat, for since the loss of her mother, who had been dead about six years, she had been doomed to almost unceasing drudgery by her father, who—a lazy and imprudent fellow—had spent most of his time, while in England, in poaching, if not worse practices, and who had been sent to America at the expense of a respectable relative, that he might no longer disgrace his family by his disreputable conduct.

Alighting one day as usual at the tavern door, Joe found a horse already hitched to the post to which he fastened his pony; and, entering the bar-room, found that the other guest was no less than Lawyer Gripe, and that, in all probability, he was even less welcome to the master of the house than Joe himself—his unrepentant errand, as Joe discovered from the conversation going on as he entered, being to demand from Dickson certain arrears of rent, and to threaten extreme measures in case the demand was not complied with.

"Very sorry, Mr. Dickson, very sorry indeed; but we must have the rent, and that on Saturday too. Mr. Doollittle can't afford to wait a day longer, and my orders to proceed to sue out a *capias* are peremptory."

"Trade's been unseasonable dull, Mr. Gripe," said Dickson; "and I've been expecting a remittance from England for a month back."

"Yes, yes, I know," said the lawyer; "but I reckon your expectations ain't a-going to pay the rent—and as for trade being dull, why most people say that if you spent half as much time attending to business as you waste in games and fishin' parties trade would be better. But that's neither here nor there—I shall call for the rent on Saturday morning, and I'd advise you to have it ready if you want to save trouble. Good day." And Mr. Gripe mounted his horse and departed.

"D—n you for a pettifogging scoundrel, and your master for an infernal Yankee miser!" muttered Dickson, as he stood scowling after his late visitor; "do your worst; but if I don't have my revenge for it my name's not Andrew Dickson. Well, Mr. Marsden,—turning rather sharply to Joe, who had begun a whispered conversation with Mary in the parlor—"well, sir, what can I do for you? Mary, go to your work—it's no time to be idling."

"I'll take a mug of cider I guess," said Joe

as Mary sorrowfully obeyed her father's order; and, as Dickson prepared to draw the beverage, he mentally prepared a plan for sounding the old man on the subject of his pecuniary troubles, with a view to devising some plan to avert, if possible, the evil which would fall upon Mary's father in case Deacon Doollittle persisted in his threat of legal proceedings.

"The Deacon's pretty sharp after his dollars, I guess," began Joe.

"Sharp—the old land-shark! the d—d greedy villain!" growled Dickson; "he'll find others are sharp too, if he troubles me, so I warn him," and he swallowed a glass of brandy to cool his wrath.

"How much rent might you owe him?" asked Joe.

"What the deuce is that to you, you inquisitive Yankee?" Dickson was about to reply; but suddenly bethought him that perhaps Joe might be inclined, for Mary's sake, to assist him, so changed his mind and said, after some hesitation, "not much—a matter of two hundred and fifty dollars; and if I could only get some friend to advance it till my remittance—"

"The lengthening of Job's countenance at the mention of the amount of the debt, however, showed him that there was no hope in that quarter, so he left the sentence unfinished.—"Two hundred and fifty dollars might he 'not much' in Andrew Dickson's estimation, as he probably never intended to pay it; but to Job it was too large a sum to be parted with, and any such doubtful security as that always expected and never-arriving 'remittance—"

"I might, may be, talk the Deacon over, and get him to give you a little more time," said Joe, after whittling thoughtfully at the seat of his chair for a few minutes. "I know he can't be in any such dreadful straits for money just now, for a night or two back I brought him seven hundred dollars in hard gold from L—, and Squire Tarbox told me he'd want me to bring a thousand more day after to-morrow." Now Joe had no sooner made this statement than he repented having done so. It was not his habit to talk to strangers about the business of others with which he was entrusted; but his ideas were somewhat confused in calculating the probable effect of Dickson's disaster on his own private arrangements with Mary, and he had been "thinking out loud," rather than addressing his companion.

An evil light shone from Dickson's eye as Joe finished his suggestive remark. "A thousand dollars!" said he; "do they trust you to—"

"Trust me?" replied Joe, angrily—"I guess there ain't many people in these parts that wouldn't trust me with ten times a thousand dollars, Mr. Dickson. They've got cause to trust me—and that's what every man can't say."

"Oh, no doubt, Mr. Marsden, no doubt; I didn't mean any offence—only I thought perhaps you might feel safe, with so much of other people's money about you, traveling alone—and without arms, too, I suppose?"

"I've never been troubled yet," replied Joe; "and as for arms, I've got a pretty likely pair growin' out of my shoulders, and a couple of hard fists at the end of 'em, that have served my turn pretty well before now, and I guess I shan't want a blunderbuss yet awhile to protect me."

Joe then renewed his offer to "talk over" Deacon Doollittle, but Dickson had become moody and abstracted, and declined, rather sulkily, any mediation in the matter. He thought he'd be able to manage it somehow, he said; there was no knowing what might turn up before the end of the week. So Joe, after vainly peering about for a glimpse of Mary, that he might bid her good-by, inhibited his pony, and set off on his accustomed journey.

Left alone, Dickson sat for an hour meditating in silence, interrupted only with an occasional muttered oath; then, pacing the room uneasily, he seemed to be turning some project over in his mind, but finally stopped, and said, as he helped himself to another mug of brandy—"Yes, it's the only way, I've done as much before—almost, and needs must when the devil drives."

The arrival of two or three farmers, who stepped in for a social glass on their return from market, put an end to his soliloquy, and during their stay he drank both deep and often, as if striving by that means to drive some unpleasant thoughts from his mind. The drink did not seem to have the desired effect, however; and during the whole of the next day he wandered through the house in a restless and preoccupied manner, leaving his food unattended at meal-times, and omitting even his usual recreation of scolding his daughter and the servant. The time hung heavy on his hands, until, on the afternoon of the third day, he took down from his peg his fowling-piece and proceeded to clean it carefully, and, taking his game-bag, set out, informing his daughter that he was going down to "the swamp" to have a shot at the snipe. He proceeded for some time towards the locality he had indicated, and then, taking a circuitous path, reached the L— turpicks, which was in an opposite direction.

Joe Marsden, in the meantime, had duly arrived at L—, and was now again on the route, the mail-bags slung across his saddle-bow, and his portmanteau securely strapped behind, containing, besides various small parcels, the thousand dollars belonging to Deacon Doollittle, of B—, sent from L—, where the Deacon owned considerable real estate, by his agent, Squire Tarbox.

"Wonder what the Deacon's going to do with all that money?" thought Joe, as he jugged along. "Goin' to buy more land, I suppose—Well, he's been a pretty 'cute man in his time, but he's gettin' old, or he'd never be thinkin' of buyin' the worn-out land around here, when there's thousands of acres out West, with a soil twenty foot deep, that's never seen a plough, and had almost for the saint. Now, if I had half the Deacon's fifty thousand dollars, I'd start out there to-morrow and buy a couple of States—darned if I wouldn't. But come, Rough, (so the pony was named), get up, old fellow—it's three miles yet to Mary's house, and we won't have more than a quarter of an hour to stay there. I wonder how old man Dickson will get out of that scrape with Deacon Doollittle? I'll see if I can't make the old fellow give him a month's time; he'll be good-natured when he sees all this gold, and I reckon I'll be able to soft-sawder him into it. It won't do

me much good, I'm afraid though, after all—for all the lazy, shiftless mortals I ever see, my respected father-in-law that is to be is the laziest and the shiftless; so it won't be long before he'll be over head and ears in debt again, even if that everlasting remittance ever gets here—Get up, Rough, you coddlin' insect! The days are gettin' awful short, and it's as dark as Egypt in these woods. I didn't have a chance to say two words to Mary the other day, and when I see her to-night I'll—"

"Stand and deliver!" said a voice in a low but distinct tone; and by the faint twilight Joe could distinguish the figure of a man standing in the middle of the road, with the muzzle of a double-barrelled gun pointing directly over the pony's ears.

Joe reined up at once. He was by no means a coward, but he saw at once that to attempt to proceed would be, as he afterwards expressed it, "short sickness and sore death," so he prudently obeyed the order to "stand," and resolved to hold as long a parley as possible in regard to the second command.

"Well, what's wantin', neighbor?" said he, trying to assume a *sang froid* he was far from feeling.

"Your portmanteau and mail-bags," said the robber, in the same low and rather constrained tone as before.

"I thought I knew the voice," said Joe to himself. "Well now, 'jest low' that cussed shootin' iron a minute, can't you? You can have the portmanteau if you want it had—and the mail-bags too, I suppose, if you must have 'em. Just hold on till I take out what's in 'em—you don't want that, a suppose?"

"Don't play the fool with me, or by— it will be worse for you! Give me that portmanteau and the bags—throw them down in the road and back, or I'll send an ounce of lead through your Yankee skull!"

"I'll see you d—d first, Andrew Dickson!" shouted Joe, yielding for once to the temptation to profanity, and giving Rough a smart cut with his switch, he lowered his head behind the pony's neck and endeavored to ride the highwayman down. The wary old poacher was prepared for such a trick, however; he leaped aside and fired—and Joe saw the flash, heard the report, felt a sharp pain through his chest, and then fell, with a faint groan, from the saddle into the road, where he lay lifeless.

The pony had stopped at the discharge, and Dickson had barely time to possess himself of the portmanteau and bags, when the sound of approaching wheels warned him of danger, and he leaped the fence, and fled through the woods which bordered the road.

"He kivered me, after all," said he, tearing from his face a piece of crape which hung from beneath his cap, and he brought his death upon himself like a fool. Did he think I'd suffer him to live to send me to State prison after I'd killed him, call my name? I didn't want to kill him, and his blood is on his own head."

After walking about a mile through the woods, stifling the voice of his conscience as he went by such specious arguments as these, he sat down, drew a dark lantern from his pocket and lighted it, and then proceeded to cut the straps of the portmanteau and mail bags—then, by cramming the gold and letters into his pockets, he extinguished the light and pursued his way homeward.

As he approached the tavern, he perceived, from the fact of a farmer's wagon standing before the door, and lights shining in the bar-room, that guests were in the house. Never were guests more unwelcome. "Curse them," said he, "when I was at custom they would not when I'd rather see himself; but I'll soon send them off"—and so saying he entered the bar-room, where the first object that met his eyes was the body of Joe Marsden lying on the settee!

The ghost of murdered Banquo sitting at the festive board could not have more appalled the guilty Macbeth than did the sight of Joe the killed Dickson. He grew livid with fear.

"Take him away!" he shrieked, "take him away! What is he doing here? Take him away—he is killed—he is dead! I didn't kill him! Why does he come here?" and throwing down his gun he attempted to escape from the house. But two strong men seized him, and dragged him to the table of his victim, despite his fierce struggles and the horrible curses which he uttered in his agony of terror.

"No, I ain't dead yet, Andrew Dickson," said Joe, in a faint voice, turning his eyes towards him—"I ain't dead yet, though it's no fault of yours; you did your best."

The miserable wretch, at the sound of Joe's voice, saw at once the truth, and whether he could reveal his crime, and which way, as he thought, forever closed by death, were unsealed to pronounce his inevitable doom, and he sank powerless upon his knees, overwhelmed with dread. He was soon securely bound, and a doctor who had been sent for, arriving, examined Joe's wound, which fortunately, though severe, he pronounced not mortal.

The wagon, the approach of which had postponed Dickson's flight, and which had arrived soon after at the scene of the robbery, belonged to a neighboring farmer, who, with one of his men, was on his way to B—. The discharge of the gun, at such a place and time, had excited their surprise, and on coming to the spot, they found the pony standing riderless in the road, beside the motionless body of poor Joe. They lifted him into the wagon, supposing him to be dead, and drove hastily on towards B—. The motion of the wagon assisted to restore the wounded man, who had been only stunned by the shock, and his groans revealed the fact to his companions, who at once stopped, and began to question him as to the circumstances of the case, and whether he recognized the robber. Upon the latter point Joe was not communicative—he couldn't be quite sure, he said, but begged them to carry him at once to Dickson's tavern, instead of to the doctor's house at B— as they proposed. Joe was unwilling to involve Mary in the disgrace of her father's guilt, and hoped to be able to see Dickson and recover the stolen property privately. But on his arrival at the tavern he had again fainted from loss of blood, and the error of Dickson at the sight of Joe had revealed his guilt too clearly to leave a hope of screening him from

the consequences. Mary was fortunately absent at a neighbor's house.

The two men proceeded to search the prisoner, and of course found all the booty upon his person. As they drew from his pocket and examined the stolen letters, Dickson's eye fell upon one bearing the London post-mark, sealed with black, and addressed to himself.

"That's mine," said he, "read it to me."

The farmer looked at the superscription, broke the seal, and read aloud as follows:

"Gray's Inn, London,
September 10th, 18—."

"Sir.—It becomes our duty to inform you that your elder brother, Joseph Dickson, late of G—, Shropshire, deceased on the 5th inst., and that by his death—he being a widower and childless—you are left sole heir to his estate, which is estimated at £25,000. Your early presence here is indispensable to perfect the transfer of the property, and we enclose you a sight draft on Boston for £500 to defray your expenses."

"We are, sir, your old servts.,
"VELLUM & POUNCE, Solicitors."

The effect of this intelligence, which at another time would have been so welcome to the wretched man who now heard it only too late, may be imagined. At first he broke forth into wild ravings and curses of his dead brother, himself and Joe, but soon sank into a sort of stupor from which it was impossible to rouse him. The strange events of the night were communicated to Mary Dickson as gently as possible, but the poor girl was almost frantic with grief. She attempted to speak to her father—but he thought that he had attempted the life of her lover, choked her with wine, and she fell fainting at his feet. Joe had been removed to a bed in the tavern, where the ball, which had ploughed its way across his chest and lodged in his shoulder, was removed.—Mary was anxious to see him, but the physician absolutely forbade it, and she took refuge in the hospitality of some kind neighbors.

The next day Dickson, in charge of two officers, was removed to the jail at L—, maintaining a stubborn silence, and refusing to see counsel. He was confined in a cell alone that night, and the next morning was found hanging, cold and dead, to the bars of the window. There is but little more to be said. Joe's recovery was more rapid than could have been hoped from the serious nature of his wound—but the careful nursing of Mary Dickson, no doubt, proved of great assistance to nature.—Though greatly affected by her father's disgraceful and violent end, she could hardly be expected to mourn his loss very deeply, and in a few weeks she recovered her usual health and spirits.

It became necessary, of course, that as heir-ess to the property to which her father's death now entitled her, she should revisit England, which she did shortly after Joe's recovery—but not alone. The voyage across the Atlantic was her bridal trip; and after a few months spent in England, she and Joe returned to America. During the journey, Joe had reflected upon his former project of buying "a couple of States" in his residence in Boston, where he has since, by judicious investments of Mary's fortune, nearly doubled its amount, and his now grown-up children often refer to their own dispirited story of "JOE MARSDEN, THE MAIL-CARRIER."

How to Direct a Letter.

Do letter-writers ever consider that the style of address, or rather the manner of writing addresses, sanctioned by immemorial usage, is as nearly as possible just what it ought not to be? Let us illustrate:

WASHINGTON LAFAYETTE SNOOKS, ESQ;
No. 743 ZENOBIA STREET,
ATHENS, N. Y.

Here we have the individual name by far the most prominent feature; then the street in which he lives; then, still smaller, the town; and finally, in almost illegible letters, the State. This letter goes into the New York post office, with twenty thousand others; the clerks put the whole lot upon a table, and begin to sort them for the mails. The first thing a clerk wants to know is—not whose letter it is, but where it is to go. Mails are made up for East, South, West and North, and for States and parts of States. Now all the clerk cares for is the State to which the letter is to go, and, in a few instances, the section of the State. He has no regard for Snooks, nor for Zenobia street, nor for Athens, except to know what Athens, so that he may not send to Georgia the letter that should go up the Hudson River.

That is the case. Now let us see what should be, and the best way to illustrate it is this:

Washington L. Snooks,
No. 743 Zenobia street,
ATHENS, N. Y.

Here the clerk sees at a glance that the letter is for New York State, and at the same instant he recognizes the special location to be Athens. That is all he cares about; the letter is properly mailed; at Athens the local postmaster sees on the instant that the letter is in the right post office, and at his leisure he finds who it is sent to. And of all men in the service, from the Postmaster General downward, this special postmaster at Athens is the only man who cares to know the name of Washington Lafayette Snooks. Moral: Write the name of the State and town in full and very large; as for the rest, it is of small account, so it be neat and plain.

We copy the above sensible article from the New York Tribune, and hope that all of its readers will heed the suggestions therein contained. While on this subject, we will add one or two other rules for letter-writers, the observance of which would be found to greatly facilitate the safe and speedy delivery of their correspondence:

In addressing a letter, be careful to write the name of the party so far from the top of the

envelope that it will not be defaced or obliterated by the post-mark.

In affixing the postage stamp, place it at the upper right hand corner of the envelope.

If the writer of a letter has any doubt of his ability to address the same correctly, and in a plain and legible hand, he should always apply to some more expert penman for assistance.—However mortifying may be the necessity for such aid, it is far better to ask it than to allow your letter to be sent, perhaps, to "the other end of nowhere," on account of the inability of a post office clerk to decipher the address.

THE CANADIAN POST OFFICE GUIDE, compiled by JOHN DEWE, Esq., Post Office Inspector, has been forwarded to us through the politeness of that gentleman. It contains a classified list of all Canadian post offices, rates of postage, information in regard to the money order system, and many valuable postal and other statistics. A chapter is devoted to some interesting facts concerning the Canadian post office, from which we extract the following:

"The earliest records of the administration of the post office in Canada bear date 1750, at which period the celebrated Benjamin Franklin was Deputy Postmaster General of North America. At the time of his appointment, the revenue of the Department was insufficient to defray his salary of £300 per annum; but, under his judicious management, not only was the postal accommodation in the Provinces considerably extended, but the revenue so greatly increased that, ere long, the profit for one year, which he remitted to the British treasury, amounted to £3,000."

The revolutionary war broke out a few months after Franklin's removal, which took place in 1774—he having held the post for twenty-four years.

In 1791 there were in Upper and Lower Canada but 12 post offices, which in 1817 had increased only to 25. The number of offices was 601 in 1851, at which time the Department was transferred from the control of the Home to that of the Colonial Government, and since that time its growth has been rapid, 1,775 offices being the number reported in 1861.

MR. HOLBROOK.
Dear Sir.—I would like to acquire of you, if I register a letter direct and separate from any other letters, whether there should a post bill accompany it? I have had a dispute with a postmaster regarding the same. It is my opinion that a post bill should accompany a registered letter. Am I right? And if so, please let me where my authority is—for that is my opinion, but I cannot find it in the book of regulations. M. W.—P. M.

When a registered letter only is to be mailed, either to a distribution office or direct, an ordinary post bill, in addition to the registry bill, should be sent with such letter, and "1 R" entered thereon in the free column. The same course is to be pursued as if there were a dozen common letters to be made up.

[Ed. Mail.]

Letter Addresses.

To William Blake I send this note, Because he wears a soldier's coat. "R" represents his company, Down in free Western Tennessee.

He's of the noble boys who went In the 12th Michigan Regiment; And I'm a *cute*ly-learned dame, With Sarah Reynolds for a name.

Mr. Jon Thurston he wor a wool komer afore he kom fro England an he keeps a sekanded shop n sumwure ke fildedefee pensilvany amerika.

(Translation.)
Mr. John Thurston; he was a wool-comber before he came from England, and he keeps a second-hand shop somewhere in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, America.

To W. S. Leonard this package bear, He resides in Troy, N. Y., somewhere; To Starbuck Bros., of iron-work fame, Confide it first—it's all the same. As a "boss" he acts in their employ, A "jolly man" and a "hunky boy." Who wouldst, for a dime or "quarter," Attack a man, if he had'n't 02.

(Endorsement on a Soldier's Letter.)
If we were paid as we should be, Then I could pay my postage fee; When "Uncle Sam" does pay us better, I'll pay the postage on each letter.

A letter was recently deposited in the Davenport (Iowa) post office, with the following humorous address:

P. M., this letter cannot wait, To Webster County send it straight, To John Harper the missive give, Who in Ft. Dodge himself doth live— At least he did a month ago, And does, if death's not laid him low; If John's alive, he'll read this letter, And if he's dead, so much the better.

The following appeared on a letter from a soldier addressed to a young lady:
Soldier's letter, and nary red; Hard tack in place of bread; Postmaster, shove this through, I've nary a stamp, but 7 months due.

Miss Stella E. Bradley,
Man-chased-her, N. H.

Care of Mr. Thomas Kelly 123 east 11th street New York City for Pat or Michael Kelly or any of their sisters these are John Kelly's children from Knock.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, MARCH, 1863.

TERMS.—Five dollars per year payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR.—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:
Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

With this number of the Mail, we have forwarded bills in cases where subscriptions are due.—In some instances they cover a few months in advance, which, of course, will not be complained of, when it is remembered that our terms are in advance for the entire year. We ask our subscribers to remit promptly, and save us further trouble.

The foreign postage tables on the fourth page of this paper, are liable to frequent and important changes, and therefore postmasters and others should not rely on a former issue of the MAIL for determining rates of postage on foreign matter, otherwise they are liable to be misled. Only the latest or current number of the paper should be consulted.

Unpaid Foreign Letters.

In the Senate a bill has been passed, authorizing the Postmaster General to take such measures as may be necessary to secure the Department against loss in the remittance of postal balances to foreign countries. At present, in consequence of the high rates of exchange, this loss forms a serious item—and it is thought will necessitate the issue, by the Department, of a regulation requiring the payment of postage on unpaid letters from foreign countries in specie. The Postmaster General regrets the inconvenience and possible hardships which may result from this measure, if adopted; but it is hoped that it will be the means of inducing more general prepayment of letters mailed abroad, and thus prevent so heavy a balance accruing against this government, on this account, in future. We are not aware of the fate of this measure in the House.

Should this arrangement be carried out, with or without further authority, public official notice thereof will be promptly given by the Department.

The New Postal Bill.

A bill embracing many important changes in our present postal system, and understood to have originated in the Department under the direction of the Postmaster General, has been before Congress for some weeks. In our last issue, we furnished a brief synopsis of this bill. Among its leading provisions, is one for compensating postmasters by salaries instead of by the present mode of commissions. This has been defeated, and the plan of payment remains as heretofore.

We are without reliable information as to the exact shape in which the bill finally passed, excepting that the city letter carriers' system has been materially changed. The carriers are to receive salaries of not more than \$800 per annum, when warranted by the work performed, unless by special authority. The Postmaster General may in certain cases make it as high as \$1,000. Postage on local or "drop letters" will hereafter be 2 cents, when not exceeding half an ounce, and an additional rate for each half ounce or fraction of an ounce—in all cases to be prepaid by postage stamps. No charge will be made either for the delivery or collection of any class of letters, whether local, or from or intended to be sent by the mail.

The regulations respecting soldier's letters remain the same as heretofore.

The amendment of the House, establishing a money order system, was rejected in the Senate and finally abandoned.

The bill as first drawn, contains some new and important provisions respecting printed matter, which may or may not have been preserved.

We regret our inability to state in detail, all the changes authorized by Congress in its final action. But as they are not to go into effect until the 1st of July next, sufficient time will be afforded postmasters and the public for becoming acquainted with all that is new in these important legal enactments.

P. S. Since the above was prepared, we have received further reliable information from Washington, confirming the foregoing statements, which are substantially correct as shown by the bill itself, a copy of which has just come to hand, but not in a shape to be published. In addition to the changes already noted in the foregoing remarks, we find that all post office box rents must be hereafter paid at least quarterly in advance.

On all mail matter required by law to be prepaid, and which shall reach its destination

unpaid, double the usual rates must be collected on delivery, and insufficient payment is to be wholly disregarded.

The fee for the registration of letters, is left optional with the Post Master General, but it is not to exceed twenty cents per letter.

Unsealed circulars, not exceeding three, to one address, are to be charged with 2 cts. postage, and in that proportion for a greater number.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.—Weekly papers 5 cts. per quarter, semi-weekly 10 cts., tri-weekly 15 cts., six times per week, 30 cts., seven times per week, 35 cts. At these rates, the weight must not exceed 4 ounces—in each case payable in advance per quarter, or year, either at the mailing or delivery office.

FRANKING.—Post masters can only frank official letters to other officials the former license to the smaller class of offices heretofore enjoyed, of franking on their own private business, having been abolished.

We shall give the bill in full in our next issue. It takes effect on the 1st day of July, 1863.

The Stamp Redemption.

The period fixed for the redemption of stamps at the New York post office, which began on the 15th of December, expired on the 20th of January, being, exclusive of Sundays and holidays, thirty days. Notwithstanding the ample notice which had been given that no more stamps would be redeemed after that time, there have been quite a number of applications made since, on the part of that unlucky portion of the public whom fate dooms to be always "just too late" for everything—the same hapless mortals who may be daily seen, with carpet-bag in hand, gazing wistfully from the end of the pier, at the wake of the departing steamboat, or rushing madly to the railroad depot, just in time to catch a glimpse of the rear car of the retreating train. No extension of the time could be granted, however: and the holders of the dubious-looking gum-backs have no remedy but to apply them to the prepayment of their postage.

During the thirty days, 4,832 packages, of over \$5 each, and valued in the aggregate at \$238,697 63, were received. Of these, about 3,300 packages have been examined and counted, of the value of about \$183,000. The amount paid in cash for stamps presented in sums of less than \$5 was \$21,809.90. As soon as the operation of counting and examining those still on hand is completed, we shall be able to give the per centage of stamps rejected, as having been already used for postage. It is thought that by the 20th inst the redemption business at the New York office will be closed up.

REGISTERED LETTERS.—We fear that the rules adopted by the Department, to be observed at the mailing as well as the receiving offices, in respect to registered letters, are not always strictly enforced. The Department enjoins the utmost care and accuracy in the custody and despatch of all classes of mail matter; but for registered letters it makes special provision, for which an extra fee is charged. The public have a right, therefore, to demand an exact fulfillment of the agreement relating to the transmission of such valuable letters. It is designed that their custody shall be confined to as few hands as possible, and that extraordinary care shall attend them from the moment of their receipt to the time of final delivery. Not only should they be as closely guarded as possible up to the moment of mailing, but at the receiving office the same degree of watchfulness should be enforced. A close inspection of every post bill should be made, not only by way of comparing the ordinary letters with the figures, but especially to determine whether a registered package is called for by the usual designation of "I. R.," and to promptly note its absence if not found. This important duty is too often neglected, we fear. The initials of the person opening a post bill calling for a registered letter or package, should always be written on such bill. We mean the ordinary post bill. Postmasters should see that this course is always adopted. In one of our largest offices, where a number of bundles of letters are daily received from another office of equal size by each mail, we recently found the practice to be—on failing to observe the registered package called for, in the "bill handle"—to infer that it had been placed in some of the other bundles, and had already been found by another of the opening clerks. On investigating complaints of the loss of several registered letters, it was found that they had been properly entered on the common post bills, and yet no endorsement appeared showing that they did not arrive. So far as the records went, therefore, they were against the latter office, and yet subsequent discoveries made it quite certain that they never got beyond the office in which they were first deposited.

Self-protection, therefore, as well as the duty of following the Department's instructions, requires that it should be known—and not guessed at—whether a letter or parcel called for on the bill does or does not arrive—and, in case of failure, it should at once be noted by the proper entry on the bill. We speak now of the ordinary post bill, and not of the return registry bill, which would not arrive, of course, till the following mail.

The book containing the new catalogue of post offices, prepared and printed under the direction of the Department, is nearly ready for distribution. It is in large quarto form, and the offices are arranged not only in alphabetical order, but by counties also. This volume will not contain, as heretofore, the postal laws and regulations, but those contained in the book now in use which have been modified or are wholly obsolete, are briefly noted.

The friends of Isaac V. Fowler, late Post Master of New York, it is said, are endeavoring to arrange for his return to this city.

Letters and Liquors.

A correspondent inquires if a postmaster is not forbidden to sell liquors in the same building where the post office is located. There is no law, nor any regulation of the Department, which positively forbids the traffic referred to; but, in consequence of the sale of liquor on the premises, a post office becomes surrounded with such unpleasant associations as to render it virtually inaccessible to ladies, or any other portion of the community, we are confident that a proper representation of the facts of the case to the Postmaster General will lead to the prompt application of a remedy of the evil.—Though it would not be, perhaps, thought advisable to absolutely forbid the sale of liquors by postmasters, yet the Department is disposed to discourage such a practice, and certainly would not allow a post-office—which is intended as a public convenience—to be perverted into a public nuisance through that or any other means.

A SAD CASE.—The postmaster of an office not far from New York was called on, not long since, by a woman who stated that her husband, who was in the army, had mailed fifty dollars in a letter to her, which had never been received. The woman was greatly in need of the money, and the postmaster's sympathies were strongly moved at hearing her pitiful story. He promised to do all in his power to hunt up the missing letter, and advised her, in the meantime, to write to her husband, asking for particulars as to the mailing of the letter, description of the bills, &c. In a few days she returned with the reply, in which the husband said: "I recollect the money well, it was in 2 bills, a forty dollar bill and a ten dollar bill." A few judicious questions soon elicited the fact that all the money which this careful husband had endeavored to send home since his enlistment, had shared the same fate as the "forty dollar bill," and that previous to that time his earnings had been principally expended in the purchase of whiskey. It was not thought worth while to pursue the investigation much further, and the unlucky wife was obliged to accept the poor consolation that the money was probably lost before it was mailed. The above will serve as a sample of some of the complaints in regard to similar losses.

STUDY THE BOOK.—Judging from the applications for information made to us by many postmasters, we infer that the book of Rules and Regulations—a copy of which is to be found in all post offices—is but little the "worse for wear." In a great many instances, the questions submitted are answered in the plainest manner possible. Where any of these Standing Rules and Instructions have been modified or totally abolished, it is our intention always to note such changes. Hence the importance of the Mail as an auxiliary to the official volume furnished by the Department. Explanations of existing laws and regulations, or advice on the many new points and phases in postal experience, will always be cheerfully undertaken; but postmasters and their deputies should always be careful to exhaust all sources of information which may be already in their possession, before exercising the Yankee license of asking questions.

FORCE OF EXAMPLE.—It should be remembered, particularly in large post offices, that the force of example is as powerful in postal affairs as in anything else. Persons in small offices, who are constantly in official communication with New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, etc., are very apt to suppose that the practices prevailing there are to be relied on, and are strictly in accordance with the existing rules and laws. If in some respects in conflict with them, the inference is that new instructions exist, and that the superior facilities of such large offices in obtaining the latest information from headquarters render them quite as safe guides as the books.

We are led to refer to this subject owing to a complaint that the postmaster in a large country town in this State, is in the habit of mailing quantities of circulars, omitting to charge extra postage on a business card printed on the envelope of each circular, and justifying himself on the ground that several of our largest class of offices follow the same practice, and that therefore section 137 of the Standing Regulations must be null and void, having been repealed or modified in respect to circular postage. We can hardly believe that any of our principal offices disregard the rule referred to, except as the result of occasional neglect and carelessness, for which, of course, there is no excuse. In either case, such practices should be exposed by any one who may have cognizance thereof.

P. S.—By the new postal bill as passed by Congress, no extra charge is to be made after the 1st of July next, for a card printed on a circular envelope.

SPECULATORS AND THE MAILS.—It is generally supposed that the miscarriage or other delay of a letter is always attended with inconvenience, disappointment or loss to the writer, or to the party addressed, or to both. Not so. A few weeks since, a country gentleman sent by express, a large amount in gold to his broker in this city. A letter sent by mail contained instructions to sell at the then prevailing prices. The "yellow boys" came promptly to hand, but the letter, by a mistake or accident, was delayed several weeks. Meanwhile a large advance in the price of gold had taken place, and what might otherwise have been considered and denounced as a most provoking piece of official blundering, resulted in a clean profit of several hundred dollars to the lucky owner of the gold.

We trust, however, that because nobody was hurt in this instance, there will be none the less care and vigilance on the part of those having the custody and direction of correspondence entrusted to the mails.

"Save the Pieces."

A gentleman of New York recently called at the post office of that city, and made complaint that a letter which he had just received, which should have contained the sum of twenty-five dollars, had been opened on the way and the money abstracted. The writer had carefully pinned the bills to the letter, and the thief in removing them had torn off a corner from each bill, which remained in the letter—two of them showing the figure 10, and the other a 5.—These *disjecta membra* were of course accepted by the recipient of the letter as "confirmation strong" of the fact of the mailing of the money by his correspondent, whose integrity and good character, moreover, he vouched for in the strongest terms. He was advised, however, to suspend judgment in the case until an investigation was had.

His patience was not subjected to a very lengthy trial—for in a few days (certain preliminary steps unnecessary to mention having previously been taken) information was received from the town where the rifled letter was mailed, that a ten dollar bill had been changed at the store kept by the postmaster—that the bill was minus a corner—and that the torn portion was found to be exactly fitted by one of the pieces which had been left in the letter—while, by another strange coincidence, the person presenting the bill proved to be the same who had originally mailed it to New York! "Putting this and that together," a conclusion not very complimentary to that gentleman would perhaps have been arrived at, but for his subsequent explanation that he had (to a fit of abstraction, we suppose) taken the money himself from the letter, which he afterwards mailed "by mistake." To prevent the possibility of his being again the victim of a treacherous memory, he visited the city in a few days and paid over the twenty-five dollars in person.

Foreign Postage.

QUESTION.—Is a letter sent to Europe, per Prussian closed mail, and prepaid in this country, always paid to destination? For instance, the Papal States in Italy. If I write to a friend in Rome, and my letter does not exceed half an ounce, and I pay 46 cts. per Prussian closed mail, is my letter then prepaid in full to destination, or has my correspondent in Rome to pay again the postage from Prussia to Italy?

ANSWER.—The 46 cts. pays in full to destination.

QUESTION.—If in your foreign postage table, the Prussian closed mail is not mentioned, as, for instance, Holland, can I send any box, to such a country, a letter per Prussian closed mail?

ANSWER.—In all cases where the Prussian closed mail is not mentioned in the table, letters cannot be forwarded by that route. Holland, for instance, goes by open mail via London, postage 21 cts. the half-ounce, when by American packet, and 5 cts. by British packet. When by American packet, the 21 cts. pays United States and sea postage to England, and by British packet, 5 cts. pays United States postage only.

MISSING AND FORWARDED.—A postmaster urges upon his brother officials the importance of a strict adherence to the rule requiring all letters which have been missed to their offices to be properly endorsed "missent and forwarded," in addition to the ordinary post-mark showing the name of the office and date of forwarding. This is frequently neglected, and in the absence of the explanation which would thus be furnished as to the real cause of delay, the office of final delivery is liable to unjust censure, if not actual suspicion.

There are but few, if any, postmasters who have not found themselves thus awkwardly situated, on the delivery of such delayed letters, by the failure to stamp upon such missent the brief and simple record of their unfortunate wanderings. The best way, after all, is to render all extra endorsements unnecessary, by sending letters and packages correctly in the first instance. The same remarks will apply to missent printed matter and other mailable packages.

CONVICTED.—In the United States District Court at Philadelphia, the trial of Hiram D. Van Vliet, indicted for fraudulently procuring from the post office at Easton, Pa., a letter, from which he embezzled the valuable contents, was concluded a few days since by the conviction of the prisoner. We noticed the case at the time of the arrest of Van Vliet, (who was not connected with the post office), and the evidence on the trial developed great ingenuity on his part in carrying out the fraudulent transaction.—Although *ex alibi* was attempted to be proved by no less than six witnesses, the testimony for the Government was too strong to be overthrown.

Special Agent S. B. Row, of Philadelphia, who made the arrest, took especial pains in tracking out the guilty man, and procuring the necessary evidence; and to his exertions the satisfactory result of the case is mainly due. The prisoner has not yet been sentenced.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL:

Dear Sir.—As it is quite customary for some in this place to mail newspapers with letters and writing enclosed, I thought it best to inquire what it is our duty to do. We have been in the habit of mailing them at letter postage, and in mailing them in that way, ought we to place them with the letters, and mail them under cover, or mark them due, and send as any other paper. By answering the above you will confer a great favor.

If a postmaster is aware, at the time such papers are deposited, that they contain letters or writing, he should demand letter postage from the party posting them, or not forward them at all. Such persons render themselves liable to a fine of \$5, if the letter or other thing is concealed in the paper with the object of enabling it to pass free of postage. See sections 123 to 130 of P. O. Regulations. In case the parties depositing refuse to pay letter postage, or are not known, we can see no objection to treating the packages as "held for postage," and notifying the parties addressed to forward the amount which may be due.

Foreign Correspondence.

Attention is called to the mode of prepaying letters for France, and correspondence passing through that country. The single rate, it is well known is quarter of an ounce, and where prepayment is compulsory, great care should be taken in determining, by exact weight, the amount of postage required to be affixed in stamps. This applies to letters of any size. It is found that in many cases such letters, being weighed before the stamps are put on, and in that condition weighing the full rate, the addition of the stamps subjects them, when weighed at the post office, to an extra rate, and the consequence is that the letter, in case of compulsory prepayment, goes to our dead letter office at Washington, instead of on board the steamer; or if for places to which prepayment is optional, the amount paid is lost to the sender, and the letter itself is forwarded as unpaid.

The safest method is to weigh the letter after the postage stamps have been affixed. In respect to the rule for weighing either foreign or domestic letters upon post office balances, it must be remembered that those balances are so arranged that, if a letter placed in the scale exceeds the weight marked at any notch on the rod by the sliding weight, it will cause the balance to vary from the horizontal, which will determine that an additional rate must be added.

It may be well to mention also, that the steamers for Europe, leaving New York on Saturday of each week, are in the employ of our Government, and are therefore designated as American packets, by which letters sent in the open mail, via London, to Holland, &c., as will be seen by our foreign tables, are required to be prepaid 21 cts. the half-ounce. These vessels are often treated by correspondents as "British packets," and 5 cts. the half-ounce, only, prepaid upon letters, in which case they have to go as unpaid via France by French mail, often causing delay and confusion.

Printed Addresses.

DEBRY, Cr., Feb. 16th, 1863.

J. HOLBROOK, Esq.,
Dear Sir.—I desire to call your attention to my system of directing letter-packages, which I claim, if generally adopted, would effectually put an end to that worst of all annoyances, "missent letter-packages."

The enclosed printed list embraces those offices to which I send mail matter every day, and which includes at least seven-eighths of the matter mailed at this office. There will be, of course, every day a dozen or fifteen scattering letters, which I can make no provision for in the printed list, and which I direct with a pen as usual.

In making up my mail, I arrange my letter-packages in the order in which they appear on the printed list. When all is ready, I cut out the entire list marked "Afternoon Mail, &c.," and with a pair of shears separate the names as shown. [They are not cut entirely through, but the right end left to be broken off when needed.] Tearing them off, and affixing to the packages as they are done up, is but the work of a moment.

In regard to the expense, I will say that I have five hundred sheets like the enclosed, at a cost of \$1.50 for printing. [The sheet is about 10 inches by 12, and the type used is what is called full-face type, lower case.] The paper is that furnished by the Department for wrapping paper. As one sheet lasts me two days, one thousand days are provided for. The gumming process is very simple, and is done by floating the sheets on a solution of dextrine and gum-arabic. My clerk, at his leisure moment, will in the course of a week gum enough to last six months.

I think I have shown that the expense is no objection to its general introduction, and in its practical operation, I can assure you, is attended with but very little trouble.

There is but one opinion among route agents, and that is—"that the man must be very stupid who should missend one of my packages with the printed directions." There are a great many names which, when written with a pen, are very similar, yet when printed are very unlike.

Your long connection with the Post Office Department will enable you to form an intelligent opinion in regard to the merits of my system, and of its practicability, &c.

I purpose to urge upon the Department the propriety of taking such steps as will lead to its general introduction.

Very respectfully,
R. C. NARAMORE, P. M.

The plan of using gummed and printed slips in addressing subscribers' papers, has been adopted by many newspaper and periodical publishers, very much to the convenience of route agents, and postmasters and their clerks. The type used for this purpose, however, are too small.

Still greater advantages would result to the public, and all concerned, if this plan could be generally applied to letter-packages at the mailing offices. And we can see no serious difficulty in its application, in the mode above described, in a great many offices at least. When once prepared, the trips can be attached in less time than would be occupied in writing the address. But little paper would be required upon which to print the labels, and the expense of printing and trouble of gumming would be slight, as, according to the above statement, \$1.50 would furnish enough to last over three years—Sundays deducted—that is in an office the size of Derby, Ct., a large manufacturing town, and doing the business of a population of about 5000.

Whether the Department would be willing to pay the expense of printing the labels we have some doubt, as in the aggregate it would amount to a considerable sum, while, if defrayed by the postmasters themselves, the tax in each case would be slight—only about a penny a week—in offices the size of Derby.—Were we a postmaster, we should invest that much for the convenience and neatness of the improvement. [En Mail.]

POSTMASTERS NOW LIABLE.—Under former military laws, the employees of the Post Office Department were not liable to be drafted into the military service of the Government. This is now changed, and by the Conscription Act just passed by Congress, our postal brethren are put on precisely the same footing as all other classes of male citizens.

REGULATIONS MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. III. No. 7.

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1863.

WHOLE No. 31.

The New Post Office Act.

(Continued from the Fourth Page.)

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General is authorized, when, in his judgment, the interest or convenience may require it, to establish one or more branch post offices, and also pillar-boxes, or other receiving boxes, for the safe deposit of matter for the mails and for delivery, and in case of such establishment a branch office, the person in charge thereof shall be appointed, and his salary fixed, as in the case of a letter-carrier, and the like honorarium required: Provided, That the post office in charge of the branch office may be a depository for the sale of stamps, to be delivered to him for that purpose by the postmaster of that postal district in sums not at any time to exceed one-half of the penalty of his bond.

Sec. 14. And be it further enacted, That all expenses for the letter-carriers, branch offices and receiving boxes, or incident thereto, shall be entered and reported in a separate account from the ordinary postal expenses of such post office, and shall be shown in comparison with the proceeds of the postage on local mail matter at each office, in order that the Postmaster General may be guided in the expenditures for that branch of the postal service by the income derived therefrom; and all such expenses shall be paid out of the proceeds of such post office at the district in which they are incurred.

Sec. 15. And be it further enacted, That the postmaster of any office where letter-carriers are employed may contract with the publishers of any newspapers or periodicals, and with the publishers of any circulars, for the delivery by postal carriers, within his postal district, of any such publications not coming through the mails, at rates and upon terms to be agreed upon, such arrangement and terms to be equally open to all like publishers; but such contract shall have no force or effect until approved by the Postmaster-General. The Postmaster General may also provide by regulation for the delivery by such carriers of small packets other than letters or papers, and not exceeding the maximum weight of mail packages; but such packages must be prepaid by postage stamps, at the rate of two cents for each four ounces or fraction thereof.

Sec. 16. And be it further enacted, That no postmaster shall receive to be conveyed by the mail any packet or package which shall weigh more than ten pounds, except books published or circulated by order of Congress.

Sec. 17. And be it further enacted, That upon the following mailable matter the postage may be prepaid at the time of mailing, by stamps, unless otherwise expressly provided in this act:

First. Upon all domestic letters, whether passing through the mails, or collected, or delivered by postal agents or carriers.

Second. Upon all transient printed matter.

Third. On the following printed, bulleted, roots and acorns; all pamphlets, books, book-manufactures and proof-sheets; maps, prints, engravings, blanks, flexible patterns, samples and sample cards, phonographic paper, letter-carriers, postal envelopes, paper, and photographic representations of different types.

Fourth. Upon all other things in the mail not otherwise herein provided for.

Sec. 18. And be it further enacted, That upon the following mailable matter the postage shall be paid before delivery for not less than one quarter, nor more than one year; and such payment for a term may be made either at the mailing office or at the office of delivery, and shall commence at any other time than at the beginning of a quarter, such payment must be made to cover such fractional quarter, and also for the next following quarter; otherwise the postage shall be collected thereon as on transient matter.

Upon regular weekly, tri-weekly, semi-weekly and daily publications, and all other regular publications, issued from a known office of publication at stated periods, and sent to regular subscribers.

Sec. 19. And be it further enacted, That mailable matter shall be divided into three classes, namely: first, letters; second, regular printed matter; third, miscellaneous matter.

Sec. 20. And be it further enacted, That the first class embraces all correspondence, wholly or partly in writing, except that mentioned in the third class. The second class embraces all mailable matter exclusively in print, and regularly issued at stated periods, without addition by writing, mark or sign. The third class embraces all other matter which is or may hereafter be by law declared mailable; embracing all pamphlets, occasional publications, books, book-manufactures and proof-sheets, whether corrected or not; maps, prints, engravings, blanks, flexible patterns, samples and sample cards; phonographic paper, letter envelopes, postal envelopes or wrappers, cards, paper, plain or ornamental, photographic representations of different types, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots and acorns.

Sec. 21. And be it further enacted, That the maximum standard weight for the single rate of letter postage is one-half ounce avoirdupois.

Sec. 22. And be it further enacted, That the rate of postage on all domestic letters transmitted in the mails of the United States, and not exceeding one-half ounce in weight, shall be uniform at three cents; and for each half-ounce, or fraction thereof, of additional weight, there shall be charged an additional rate of three cents, in all cases prepaid by postage stamps plainly affixed to such letter.

Sec. 23. And be it further enacted, That the rate of postage on all letters not transmitted through the mails of the United States, but delivered through the post office or its carriers, commonly described as local or drop letters, and not exceeding one-half ounce in weight, shall be uniform at two cents, and an additional rate for each half-ounce or fraction thereof of additional weight, to be in all cases prepaid by postage stamps affixed to the envelope of such letter; but no extra postage or carrier's fee shall hereafter be charged or collected upon letters delivered by carriers, nor upon letters collected by them for mailing or for delivery.

Sec. 24. And be it further enacted, That the domestic letter rate of postage is established for all mailable matter which is wholly or partly in writing, or is so marked as to convey any other or further intelligence or information that is conveyed by the original print, in case of printed matter, or which is sent in violation of law or regulations of the Department, touching the inclosure of matter which may be sent at less than letter rates, and for all matter introduced into the mails for which no different rate is provided by law: Provided, that book manuscripts and corrected proofs passing between authors and publishers may be sent at the rate of printed matter. And provided, further, that publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print or write upon their publications, sent to regular subscribers, the address of subscribers and the date when the subscription expires, and may inclose therewith receipts for payment and bills for subscription thereto.

Sec. 25. And be it further enacted, That on all matter not enumerated as mailable matter, and to which no specific rate of postage is assigned, and which shall nevertheless be mailed, the rate, if the same shall be forwarded, is established at the rate of letter postage.

Sec. 26. And be it further enacted, That if any matter on which by law the postage is required to be prepaid at the mailing office shall reach its destination, without such prepayment, double the prepaid rates shall be charged and collected on delivery.

Sec. 27. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General is authorized to provide by uniform regulation for transmitting unpaid and duly certified letters to soldiers, sailors and marines in the service of the United States to destination; and all other letters which from accident or neglect appear to have been deposited for mailing without prepayment of postage, where, in the latter case, the writer is not known, or cannot be promptly advised of his default; but in all cases of letters not prepaid, except certified soldiers' and naval letters, the same shall be charged with double rates of postage, to be collected on delivery.

Sec. 28. And be it further enacted, That when any writer of a letter on which the postage is prepaid shall inclose in writing or in print upon the outside thereof his name and address, with a request that the same be returned to him if not called for or delivered within any number of days (not to exceed 30 days), any such letter shall not be advertised nor treated as a dead letter at the office addressed, but shall be returned as requested, charged with the proper postage at the prepaid rate, to be collected on the return delivery; and if not then delivered, shall be treated as a dead letter.

Sec. 29. And be it further enacted, That the postage on returned dead letters, not registered as valuable, shall be three cents for the single rate; on returned dead letters, registered as valuable, double rates shall be charged.

Sec. 30. And be it further enacted, That all letters directed to any person not found at the office addressed, may be forwarded to any other office where he may be found without additional charge of postage therefor.

Sec. 31. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General shall have authority to pay, or cause to be paid, a sum not exceeding two cents each for all letters conveyed in any vessel or steamboat, not employed in carrying letters or parcels, out to port or place to any other port or place in the United States, or from any foreign port to any port within the United States, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe. But all such letters shall be deposited in the post office at the point of arrival, for mailing or delivery; and if for delivery within the United States, shall be rated with double rates of postage, which shall cover the fee paid to the vessel. No letters shall be allowed for letters collected by a carrier on a small route.

Sec. 32. And be it further enacted, That for the greater security of valuable letters posted for transmission in the mails of the United States, the Postmaster General is authorized to establish a uniform plan for the registration of such letters, on application of parties posting the same, and to require the payment of the postage, as well as a registration fee not exceeding twenty cents, on every such letter or packet, to be accounted for by postmasters receiving the same in such manner as the Postmaster General shall direct: Provided, however, That such registration shall not be compulsory, and it shall not render the Post Office Department or its revenue liable to suit for any loss or damage to the contents thereof; and provision shall be made by regulation for a return receipt to the writer, showing to whom and when such registered letter was delivered, which receipt shall be received in the Court as prima facie evidence of such delivery.

Sec. 33. And be it further enacted, That the maximum standard weight for the single rate of postage on matter classed as printed matter, and also on that classed as miscellaneous matter, is four ounces avoirdupois, subject to the exception in the next following section provided.

Sec. 34. And be it further enacted, That the rate of postage on transient mailable matter of the second class, and also on all miscellaneous mailable matter of the third class (except books and newspapers), shall be two cents for each four ounces, or fraction thereof, contained in any one package to one address; and such postage shall in all cases be fully prepaid by stamps, plainly affixed to the wrapper thereof. Double the rates shall be charged for books. Unsealed circulars, not exceeding three in number, shall pass at the single rate of two cents, and in that proportion for a greater number, adding one rate for each additional copy. No extra postage shall be charged for a card printed or impressed upon an envelope or wrapper. These rates must in all cases be prepaid by stamps.

Sec. 35. And be it further enacted, That the rate of postage on mailable matter of the second class, issued once a week or more frequently from a known office of publication, and not exceeding the standard weight of four ounces, and passing through the mails or post offices of the United States, shall be as follows: For publications issued once a week, five cents; issued twice a week, ten cents; issued three times a week, fifteen cents; issued six times a week, twenty cents; and in that proportion, adding one rate for each issue more frequent than once a week. For weight exceeding four ounces, and not exceeding eight ounces, an additional rate shall be charged; and on the same scale, an additional rate for each additional weight of four ounces or fraction thereof; and such postage may be prepaid for a term not less than one quarter, nor more than one year, at either the office of mailing or at the office of delivery, or by the subscriber, of which payments a record shall be made and preserved in the post office where paid; and no such publication shall be delivered from the office until such payment has been made; and the postmaster of the office where such payments are made shall be authorized to publish, one copy thereof free of postage.

Sec. 36. And be it further enacted, That the rate of postage upon mailable matter of the second class, issued less frequently than once a week from a known office of publication, and sent to regular subscribers, shall be as follows: Upon newspapers, magazines and other periodical publications, each not exceeding the standard weight of four ounces, and passing through the mails or post offices of the United States, between any points therein, the rate for each such paper or periodical shall be one cent, and an additional rate of one cent for each additional weight of four ounces or fraction thereof: Provided, That the Postmaster General may provide by regulation for the transportation of small newspapers in packages at the same rate by the standard weight of the package when sent to one address; and the rules herein provided must be prepaid at either the office of mailing or of delivery, at the option of the subscriber, for a term not less than one quarter nor more than one year, except that newspapers may pay the postage upon their packages as received, at the same rates as provided for newspapers sent to regular subscribers who pay postage quarterly in advance.

Sec. 37. And be it further enacted, That publishers may inclose in their publications sent to regular subscribers the bills for subscription thereto without any additional charge for postage, and may write or print upon their publications, or upon the wrappers thereof, the name and address of the subscribers thereof, and the date when the subscription will expire; but any other inclosures or addition in writing on the print shall subject the same to letter postage, which shall be collected before delivery thereof.

Sec. 38. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General may from time to time provide by order the rates and terms upon which routes agents may receive and deliver at the mail-car or steam-car packages of newspapers and periodicals delivered to them for that purpose by the publishers, or any news agent in charge thereof, and not received from, nor designed for delivery at, any post office.

Sec. 39. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General has authority to prescribe by regulation the manner of wrapping and securing for the mails all matter not charged with letter postage nor lawfully franked, so that the same may be conveniently examined by postmasters; and if not so wrapped and secured, the same shall be subject to letter postage. He may also provide by regulation for ascertaining by weighed lists, by affidavit or otherwise, whether publishers send or have sent their publications unpaid through the mails to other than their regular subscribers.

Sec. 40. And be it further enacted, That postmasters at the office of delivery are authorized, and it shall be their duty, to remove the wrappers and envelopes from printed and other matter not charged with letter postage, nor lawfully franked, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is upon, or connected with, any such printed matter or such package any matter or thing which would authorize or require the charge of a higher rate of postage thereon.

Sec. 41. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General may require an affidavit in form, to be prescribed by general regulation, to be taken by any publisher, or any clerk, agent or servant of such publisher of any paper or periodical, which, by the terms of this act, may be sent to regular subscribers without prepayment of postage at the mailing office, to the effect that neither he nor any other proprietor, clerk, agent or employee, within his knowledge, has sent, or caused or permitted to be sent, through the mails, without prepayment of postage stamps, any copies of such paper or periodical (aaming it), except the same were sent to bona fide and regular subscribers thereto. And if it be ascertained that such papers or periodicals have been thus unlawfully sent, with the knowledge or consent of such proprietors, or of the agent or clerk in charge of that business, or of such affidavit, when required by the Postmaster General, or by a special agent of the Post Office Department, shall be refused the person guilty of such offense, or refusing such oath, shall be liable to a fine of \$50 in each case, to be recovered by suit before any court of competent jurisdiction, one-half of which when recovered shall be paid to the informant.

Sec. 42. And be it further enacted, That authority to frank mail matter be conferred upon and limited to the following persons: First, the President of the United States, by himself or his private secretary. Second, the Vice-President of the United States. Third, the chiefs of the several executive departments. Fourth, the principal officers, being heads of bureaus or chief clerks, of each executive department, to be used in official communications, as the Postmaster General may by regulation prescribe. Fifth, Senators and representatives in the Congress of the United States, including delegates from Territories, the Secretary and Clerk of the House of Representatives, to cover correspondence to and from them, and printed matter issued by authority of Congress, and all speeches, proceedings and debates in Congress, and all printed matter sent to them; their franking privilege to commence with the term for which they are elected, and to expire on the first Monday of December following such term of office. Sixth, all official communications addressed to the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and Clerk of the House of Representatives, to cover correspondence to and from them, and printed matter issued by authority of Congress, and all speeches, proceedings and debates in Congress, and all printed matter sent to them; their franking privilege to commence with the term for which they are elected, and to expire on the first Monday of December following such term of office. Seventh, all official communications to and from the Postmaster General, that in all such cases the envelope shall be marked "official," with the signature of the writer thereto; and in every such case the franking privilege shall be made, the person making the same shall forfeit and pay \$300. Eighth, petitions to either branch of Congress shall pass free in the mails. Ninth, all communications addressed to the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and Clerk of the House of Representatives, and to the Postmaster General, shall not exceed sixteen ounces in weight, shall be allowed to interchange their publications reciprocally free of postage: Provided, That such interchange shall be confined to a single copy of each publication.

Sec. 43. And be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force and take effect from and after the 30th day of June, 1863.

Sec. 44. And be it further enacted, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Approved March 5, 1863. JESHA A. GROW, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SOLOMON FOOT, President of the Senate pro tem.

Approved March 3, 1863. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

A Strong Resignation.

The following is a copy of a letter of resignation, recently received by the Postmaster General from one of his deputies in Oregon. A more respectful and less urgent appeal would, no doubt, have brought relief quite as readily as the somewhat unusual form of petition which he has adopted. We give only the initials of the town and office, believing that the fury of our friend, who appears to be so sick of official life, may have cooled down a little, and that he would therefore dislike to see himself in print:

POSTMASTER GENERAL, Washington City:

I hereby resign, release and relinquish all right, title and interest in and to the important position of postmaster at E—, Oregon, and to the profits and emoluments thereof, in favor of some one who wants a settlement for life. To me it has proved worse than the "seven-years' itch;" and if one particle of Christian charity enters into the composition of your Department, I appeal to it, as you value the salvation of your soul, to relieve me from the curse I have so long endured with patience and humility.

I would suggest the name of L— K—, forty-fourth cousin to the New York Chancellor of that name. He is a good, reliable, straightforward, consistent, uncompro-mising, indefatigable, get-up-and-go Union Republican—a gentleman and a scholar.

Now, if there be any other qualification required, please advise me of its nature, and I will vouch that K— possesses it. Only remove me, if the office should have to be discontinued. O relieve! relieve! relieve!

Yours, in hope of a speedy relief,
W. W. W. P. M.

A Patriotic Letter.

Among the communication sent by distinguished public men to the great Union gathering at Cooper Institute, in this city, on the 8th ult., was the following model letter from Hon. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General:

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1863.

Messrs. OPDYKE and others,

GENTLEMEN: I regret that I cannot be with the loyal men of New York to-morrow. I heartily approve the movement and the resolutions to be submitted at the meeting.

The lovers of free government should be thoroughly aroused to a sense of the necessity of constant, united and vigorous efforts to preserve for mankind the happy progress of our Great Republic, which in less than a century has erected in the New World a nation blessed with a prosperity hitherto unknown. This prosperous power is the creation of popular government on a vast scale, and the struggle in which we are now involved is resistance to a most formidable conspiracy of oligarchs at home and abroad to destroy it.

It is not permanently to dismember its territory that this great Government is now assailed. Its vital principle—popular sovereignty—is stricken at. The physical conformation of our country defies all attempts to dismember the Union. Its lakes and gulfs, North and South—its rivers traversing East and West from ranges of mountains, terminating in immense bays of the Atlantic and Pacific, and vast navigable streams in the central valleys which are channels of commerce, bringing the seas to the homes of all the cultivators of the continent, render the dissolution of the Union, which grows out of the necessities of commerce, as impossible as the destruction of the system provided by nature for that intercourse. England and Scotland are not more marked as the home of one people and one government than our own country. Perpetual, unmitigated hostility was the fate of the English and Scotch people until they became one under the same government, and so it would be of us. But while the conspiracy against the Government cannot permanently dismember a Union born of natural causes and bounded by natural limits, it may, and will if successful, change the character of the Government by blotting out the free principles inscribed in our Magna Charta at its birth, and adopting the counter-declarations of the Rebellion which makes Slavery the foundation of the new institution to give law to the continent. The prophetic heart of the President long ago foretold the issue which the Southern agitators were forcing on the country, when he said, in one of his early contests for freedom, "I see that the United States must all be free or all slaves," and this is the issue of the hour—not of debate, but of arms. We must conquer, or the irresistible power of the Union itself will subject us to the Oligarchs.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
M. BLAIR.

A Very Sad Case.

CRIME AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.—In a late number of the Boston Daily Herald we find the annexed sketch, briefly describing an incident which recently occurred in the Police Court of that city:

"There was a sad and lamentable case before the Court this forenoon. In Job, chap. xvi. ver. 20, may be found the following words:—'My friends scorn me, but mine eye poureth out tears unto God.' These words are applicable to the unfortunate woman (it will not benefit the public to publish her name) who was brought from the toils by two officers of the Court and placed in the dock, charged with being a common drunkard. She could hardly stand alone, with a constitution shattered by strong drink and disappointment. She was deeply clad, wore no bonnet, and her hair was flying loosely about her once fair and handsome face.

"Poor woman! what a sad change of life had she met with within the past ten years. Once the wife of one who was treasurer of a rich corporation, respected by all classes in the community, living in style, surrounded with all the luxuries of life, and visited by the wealthy and fashionable citizens of Boston and Salem. But the husband lived beyond his means, and his downfall had to come sooner or later. Less than ten years ago the community was startled to hear that Mr. — was a defaulter to a very large amount to the corporation. His wife stood by him in the hour of adversity, and he managed to get clear of the charges against him without being sent to prison.

"But his character and reputation were ruined. He went to New York, and in a few short months Mr. — was again arrested, this time for robbing the mails, and is now serving out a term of imprisonment in the Connecticut State Prison.

"During her husband's guilty course she stood by him, and spent her last dollar in his behalf. Finally her home was made desolate, and her elegant house and furniture were taken from her. Those who had formerly sought her society and her loves, shunned her. Thus the broken-hearted woman has fallen. She took to strong drink, residing in a small room on Carver street, and picking up her meals outside for the past few months."

We will add to the Herald's sad story, that the unfortunate woman referred to was removed from the court room to one of the city charitable institutions, and that her department was such as to show that she is not totally unconscious of her shame and degradation.

Notwithstanding the omission of real names, the principal points in the tragical history here sketched are given in too much detail to admit of speculation as to who are the real parties meant, especially in a community where pain could possibly be inflicted upon innocent and respectable relatives, thus defeating the honorable motive which suggested the partial attempt to prevent recognition.

The case is that of William H. Tuckerman, convicted in Connecticut, in 1858, of extensive mail robberies, and sentenced to the State Prison for a long term of years. We mention this fact now, yielding as we do to a desire which presses upon us, to contribute a word of testimony in favor of an unfortunate and now friendless woman, and to speak of her as she once was.

At the time of the second, no less than the first fall of her reckless husband, she sustained the character of a faithful, devoted wife, and the reports at the time, that she was cognizant of or participated in his crimes, were certainly incorrect. So long as there was a fancied ray of hope, even in his desperate case, she spared no privation or sacrifice which promised to comfort or save him, and to the last she struggled on with all the energy and devotion of a true heroine. After his permanent confinement at Wethersfield, she followed him there, and obtained a situation in the family of the Prison Warden as governess, where she became quite a favorite, remaining, if we mistake not, until the sudden death of her kind patron at the hands of one of the prisoners. Of her more recent history we know but little besides what is above recited. If ever there was a case calculated to fasten wretchedness and despair upon a sensitive nature, here's that case. Not a solitary friend or sympathizer in the wide world, save this devoted wife, and his aged mother since deceased, had the unfortunate Tuckerman. How much the severe sentence of her husband, neglect and desertion—possibly unjustifiable—of proud relatives, and the frowns of a cold and uncharitable world, may have had to do with the melancholy fate of this poor woman, we are not quite prepared to say. May not a spark of hope be once more revived in her heart, by the timely intervention of those who delight in such efforts of benevolence.

Tuckerman has served out but about five years of his imprisonment. His department as a prisoner, we are informed, has thus far been unexceptionable. He is a man of education, an accomplished accountant, and while occupying an honorable position in society was a person of growing manners and of considerably refinement. He has been mainly employed in writing, &c., in one of the contract shops of the prison.

While the trial was pending he declined to plead guilty, by which course thousands of dollars would have been saved to the government, and, no doubt, a shorter term of imprisonment to himself. His self-justification for this refusal was characteristic of the man. "Thank you, you are very kind," said Tuckerman, with his usual politeness, after listening attentively to the advice. "But supposing I am guilty—which you know I have never for an instant admitted—and should plead guilty on the grounds you suggest, should I not be compelled to serve out the full compromise term? Whereas, if I should stand trial and possibly be convicted, an application for a pardon would be in order at any time!" There was nothing further to be said—and conviction followed, and with it a sentence of twenty-one years.

A LITERARY CURIOSITY.—A new monthly publication, entitled "The Stamp Collector's Magazine," has appeared in London. It is entirely devoted to the interests of those who have acquired the popular mania for the collection of postage stamps of all nations and denominations. The first number contains several interesting articles, among them one written by a savan of the British Museum, on the proper method of arranging postage stamps.

A PATRIOTIC DONATION.—The Hon. SCHUYLER COLPAX, has presented the amount of mileage paid to him for the third session of the present Congress, over six hundred dollars, for the benefit of the sick and disabled soldiers of Indiana, the State he represents in Congress.

Letter Addresses.

Mr. Postmaster, mark this well, and let it soon proceed.
For Julia Allen anxious waits, what is within, to read;
The penny post in New Haven, whoever he may be,
Will please leave this in Wallace Street, at number 33.

Take this letter to deposit;
Uncle Samuel don't you lose it!
Give it safe into the care
Of George D. Wheeler living there.
It is for his dear little girls,
One with dark hair, one with curls,
Nell is sweet, and Fanny's fair,
In the county of Delaware. N. Y.

Mr Alfred Bassard or to Capt Eckles or any one of the 32 Regt of Wisconsin volunteer that knows A. Bassard. Vicksburg Miss 32 Regt Wisconsin volunteers Co R.

Ally Teakle, a fair young miss,
Will find a note inside of this;
On swiftest wings, then, let it fly,
To No. 7 38th Street, N. Y.

To Mrs Badys of Northampton north of america to be forwarded to bridget power she mentioned that it is about two hundred miles from New York.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, APRIL, 1863.

TERMS—One dollar per annum in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.
The postage on this paper, for the year, is six cents if paid for the whole year or quarterly in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1862.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. Holbrook, Special Agent P. O. Department

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:
Ordered, That the Assistant Postmaster-General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of their several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, April 1, 1863.

SIR—Under existing postal arrangements, postage collected on foreign letters must be accounted for by the Department to foreign governments in specie or its equivalent; and at the present rate of exchange, the remittance of the balance of postage due to foreign Post Departments, in consequence of the very large excess of collections made in the United States, has been attended with heavy loss to the revenues of this Department.

The following joint Resolution to remedy this evil was approved March 24, 1862:

A RESOLUTION.

"Authorizing the collection in coin of postage due on unpaid mail matter from foreign countries—Whereas the failure to receive foreign correspondence throws upon the Post Office Department of the United States large balances, which have to be paid in coin—Therefore

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That the Postmaster General be and he is hereby authorized to take such measures as may seem to him advisable to collect postage on letters from abroad not prepaid, in order to avoid loss in the payment of such balances.

In pursuance of the provisions of this resolution, you are hereby directed, from and after the first day of May next, to collect in gold or silver coin all postage due on unpaid letters received from foreign countries in the mails despatched to this country from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Prussia, Hanburg, Bremen or Belgium, and to hold the coin so collected subject to the special drafts or orders of this Department. Should, however, payment of such postage and of the premium on a corresponding amount of coin be tendered you in United States notes, you are authorized to accept the same in lieu of coin.

You will report weekly to the Third Assistant Postmaster General the amount of coin thus collected at your office, and also report separately the amount thereof received in the ordinary course of business, and retain the same subject to special orders, established by the act of March 2, 1861.

For the present, this order will apply exclusively to the mails received from the countries above mentioned.

On existing letters the existing regulations remain unchanged.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

RATES OF POSTAGE TO NEWFOUNDLAND.—The Postmaster General has issued the following order, which we publish for the information of postmasters and the public, viz:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, March 18, 1863.

"It appearing that and collected in the province of Newfoundland upon all letters received from the United States, without reference to prepayment made in this country, and that the arrangement established by a combined international rate of postage, the payment of which optional, each country to retain the postage it collects, which has been made between the United States and Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Island, has not been adopted, in practice, by the General Post Office of the province of Newfoundland—it is therefore ordered, that hereafter the United States postage only, of ten cents the single rate for any distance not exceeding 2,500 miles, and of twenty cents for greater distances, established by the act of March 2, 1861, be levied and collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States, as the case may be, upon all letters addressed to or received from Newfoundland, by the route of New Brunswick.

All letters addressed to or received from Newfoundland, via Boston, by the route of the Atlantic, and to all United States postage of five cents the single rate, to be prepaid at the mailing office, and collected at the office of delivery, in the United States, as the case may be. Postmasters are instructed to carry this order into effect immediately.
M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, March 25, 1863.

Years of the 27th last, a received. In answer I have to say that the Department has decided that Photographic Albums are not, properly considered, "mailable articles," and that when sent the same are subject to letter rates of postage, to be prepaid by stamps, agreeably to the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 30th of August, 1862.

Respectfully your obedient servant,
ST. JOHN B. L. SKINNER,
Chief Post Assistant P. O. General.

J. HOLBROOK, Esq., Special Agent P. O. D. M. Y.

THE NEW POSTAL ACT.—A reliable copy of this important law will be found in our columns, commencing on the fourth page. It is the design of the Department to place within the reach of all postmasters official instructions, to aid them in the execution of the various provisions of the Act, at as early a date as possible prior to the 1st of July. We hope to give the supplement to the law in our next issue.

WANTED.—We are desirous of obtaining a few copies of the U. S. Mail, of the date of Oct. 1862, No. 25, as our supply of that number became exhausted before we were aware of it.—Any of our readers having the Mail for that month, in good condition, and which they can spare, will oblige us by sending it to our address, and if required, we will make them proper compensation, or reciprocate the favor in some other way.

We must not forget to make our acknowledgments for the very handsome treatment of the U. S. Mail by the Department, in the "Notice to Postmasters," placed so conspicuously on one of the covers of the official book just published and now being circulated.

Postal Convention.

A Convention is soon to take place in the French capital, of representatives from various and chief foreign countries, for the purpose of revising and improving our international postal systems, with a view to promote the mutual interests, in this regard, of all parties concerned. It is understood that this most important movement was inaugurated, we are proud to state, by Postmaster General Blair, and we trust it will be productive of results wholly satisfactory to its originator, and our own and other governments and people.

An able correspondence on this subject was opened by Judge Blair through the State Department on the 4th of August last, which was closed on the 2d ult. Up to that time, concurrence in the proposition had been announced by Great Britain, France, Prussia, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Ecuador, and other powers.

HON. JOHN A. KASSON, late First Assistant Postmaster General, and now member of Congress elect, has been selected to represent the postal interests of the United States in the approaching Convention. It is to assemble on the 11th day of May next, and we understand that Mr. Kasson will soon set out on his interesting mission.

Canadian Post Office.

The Postmaster General of Canada has presented to the Legislature his Annual Report.—From the tenor of the document, we must conclude that the Canadian Post Office Department is in a very satisfactory condition. We lay before our readers a few of the more interesting items:

We find that, during the year, 92 new post offices were established, and 9 closed, making the total number of offices in operation on the 30th of September, 1862, 1,858. In 1852 the number was only 840. 319 miles of new post routes, and 137,462 miles of annual mail travel, were added to the service during the year; making a total of 5,992,000 miles of annual mail travel, against 2,930,000 in 1852. The number of letters posted in 1862 was 10,200,000, against 3,700,000 in 1852. The revenue has increased from \$230,629, in 1852, to \$723,056, in 1862. The total expenditure, exclusive of railway mail payments, was \$35,584.17.—There has been an increase, in 1862, over 1861, of more than \$40,000. The general expenditure of the year 1862 exceeds that of 1861 by \$26,458.37. A large portion of the above amount went to pay for additional clerks in the city post offices, and also for additional salary to such clerks as, under the Civil Service Act, were entitled to increase of salary for length of service. We may here remark that, some years ago, the Canadian Legislature passed a Civil Service Bill, and, under the provisions of that Bill, the employees of the Government are entitled to a yearly increase of salary. The effect of such a law cannot but be highly beneficial to the interests of the Government. There is an additional incentive for a man to perform his duty faithfully and conscientiously, when he knows that the Government has pledged itself to reward his fidelity, and that, as year by year rolls around, he will be sure of receiving an additional sum to his yearly income. We say again, such an act must be highly beneficial to the Government and people of Canada. It is to be hoped that our own Government may, ere long, be induced to adopt some such plan, by retaining faithful and efficient servants during good behavior, and granting an additional yearly allowance to their pay.

"The correspondence between Canada and the United States has, to a small extent, increased during the past year. The amount of postage collected in the United States, on the inter-correspondence of the two countries, was \$95,285.48. Amount of postage collected in Canada, on the inter-correspondence of the two countries, was \$95,428.49."

"Parcel Post.—The number of parcels forwarded by mail during the year, at the parcel post rate, is estimated to have been somewhat over 5,000, contributing about \$1,825 to the revenue."

"Registration.—520,000 registered letters are estimated to have passed through the mails this year. There were 27 cases of alleged loss or abstraction affecting registered letters during the year 1862."

"Money Orders.—The number of money orders issued and payable within the Province was 18,574—amount, \$665,818.66. The number of ditto paid within the year was 18,450—amount, \$665,826.36. The number issued in Canada of the United Kingdom was 13,935—amount, \$226,717.20. The number drawn in the United Kingdom on Canada, 2,517—amount, \$50,582.98. Amount of commission derived upon Canadian orders, \$5,176.37. Amount derived from difference in exchange upon British orders, \$5,415.21. Total money order revenue, \$10,591.58. The expenditure for superintendence, printing, and all contingencies, \$13,674.63. Commissions to postmasters, \$2,056.20. Total expenditure, \$15,730.83. The amount of local money order transactions has been less in 1862 than in 1861; but, on the other hand, the interchange of money orders with the United Kingdom has continued to increase. Steps have been taken to invite arrangements with Australia and Nova Scotia for the interchange of money orders with Canada. No loss, by fraud or otherwise, has been incurred in the money order operations of the year."

OUR CHIEF.—At Brady's, 785 Broadway, may be seen a full length photograph portrait, imperial size, of Hon. Mr. BLAIR, Postmaster General. It is among the finest and most satisfactory representations that have ever been turned out at that famous establishment.

As many postmasters are also editors, we will be obliged if they will notice the Mail editorially, as in that way we may reach officials who are possibly ignorant of the existence of such a journal.

In a Corner.

A good thing has happened in connection with one of our "eldest Special Agents." It appears that on the 26th of December last, moved by his well-known devotion to the interests of the Department, he wrote a letter to a certain postmaster, calling attention to the carelessness of his clerks in the matter of cancelling some of the postage stamps upon letters mailed at his office. Failing to get any acknowledgment of this well-intended missive, on meeting the postmaster some days afterwards, his attention was called to the subject, when it appeared that he had never received nor heard of the letter in question. Vague suspicions arose as to whether some of the clerks, authorized to open official correspondence in his absence, might not have admonished the stamping clerk, and the object of the letter having been thus answered, considered it no serious violation of duty, under all the circumstances, to toss it into the waste basket. But the worthy postmaster indignantly declined to entertain such an idea for an instant, and so did the Agent on learning who alone was authorized to open the postmaster's official letters besides himself.

Thus matters stood for just three months, when the missing document is opened in the Dead Letter Office, having been plainly addressed to "Washington, D. C., instead of the intended office in New England! It was, of course, returned to the astonished writer, with the following sarcastic endorsement on the envelope, in the familiar chirography of one of our best and oldest "public functionaries":

"Respectfully referred to Mr. Holbrook, who may, perhaps, be able to make on item for the Mail about misdirected letters."

Here was a pretty fix! At first we thought of turning the tables on our amused friends at the Dead Letter Office, by inquiring of them if they had yet to learn that the decoy system included the sending of an occasional letter to their particular bureau, by way of testing their own faithfulness in executing the existing regulations! The next idea was, to watch for some similar blunder on their part, and hold that up as an offset. The aperture furnished by the former mode of escape would most assuredly, we thought, seem rather a scant pattern to the old ones for whom the dodge would be intended. And as to the latter plan, of catching some of the gentlemen themselves napping, the chance in that direction appeared a little too remote, we confess. Then the fact that our thoughts are so constantly on the Department—that surely would not be a bad excuse for writing the little word "Washington" in place of something else of about the same length.

Finally we concluded to abandon all these and similar apologies, look the thing square in the face, and obey the semi-official suggestion quoted above, namely, to make it the text for "an item in the Mail about misdirected letters."

RETURN OF A PROMISE.—Many years ago, Messrs. DUNCAN, SHERMAN & Co., the well-known bankers of New York, failed to receive from one of their foreign correspondents a letter which it was alleged had been duly mailed to their address, containing the sum of 10,000 francs. Inquiry and search were made at the time, but ineffectually, and the matter had been all but forgotten until a few weeks since, when Messrs. D. S. & Co., received through the post office the following letter:

"Messrs. DUNCAN, SHERMAN & Co.:
Gentlemen.—Enclosed please find a package of letters which were found some years ago in front of the New York post office. Temptation and curiosity caused me to open them, not thinking of the wrong I was doing at the time. Being afraid then to return them, I have kept them ever since, and the thought of having done wrong will not let me rest until I return them. I therefore return them herewith, hoping that you will forgive me for keeping them so long—yet they may be of the same use to you now. Wishing to know whether you received them, please acknowledge the receipt in the New York Herald, and oblige and forgive me.
PINDER."

The enclosure consisted of an envelope addressed to the firm, post-marked London, July 8th, 1854, covering several letters, and among them the one containing the 10,000 francs. Of course the long-lost wanderer was gladly welcomed home, and the conscience-stricken "Pinder," who had been compelled to purchase relief from his troubled thoughts by this tardy restitution, was duly notified that his "treasure trove" had finally reached the hands of its rightful owners.

Whether the letter was really found as stated, or whether it was originally obtained by less innocent means, it is impossible to determine, and perhaps hardly worth while to inquire; in either case we are glad that the struggle between conscience and temptation, which for nine years has been going on in the mind of the writer of the above, has at last resulted in the triumph of the right, and we hope that the satisfaction he must feel in this act of reparation, will guard him from again yielding to the impulses of evil if similarly tempted in the future.

OFFICIAL CARPENTERS.—Postmasters who have charge of small offices should remember that carelessness in the performance of their duties is less excusable than in the larger offices, where the constant pressure of business, and the necessary haste in its performance, may palliate an occasional blunder. Those in charge of offices where the daily duty is limited to the reception and delivery of one or two mails, with their sorting and delivery, should see to it that their not very onerous task is performed correctly and promptly.

"Who does but little here below,
Should do that little right."

FRANKING.—We are asked whether a postmaster's franking privilege, as stated in section 229 of the Regulations, has been revoked or modified in any particular. We reply that the rule as there given remains in full force. The new law cuts off this privilege, excepting in respect to letters strictly official.

The Draft.

A correspondent, who is evidently alarmed lest his official position shall debar him from the privilege of taking an equal chance with his fellow-citizens for the honor of serving in the ranks of the country's defenders, sends me the following:

Editor U. S. Mail:
Sir—I see in a late edition of your paper that you infer that postmasters are subject to draft, as they are not exempted from military service by the Conscription Act.

It is a long-established legal fact, that any legislative act, to be binding upon the parties interested, must contain a section repealing old acts or parts of acts conflicting with it. Now, as the Conscription Act contains no such section or provision, it has not repealed the law which exempts postmasters from military duty—therefore the old law is still valid, and hence postmasters are not subject to draft.

Respectfully, &c.,
H. B. C.

We are glad to be able to relieve the fears of our correspondent by assuring him, on good authority, that the omission of the repealing clause from the act referred to, does not at all affect its validity. Should he be so fortunate as to be selected as one of those whose stout arms and valiant hearts the defence of the republic against the assaults of rebels and traitors shall be confided, he may be certain that the fact of his connection with the Post Office Department would avail nothing to any envious persons who might seek to deprive him, on that ground, of the opportunity of gratifying his martial longings. And no postmaster, assistant, clerk, or other post official, need resign his civil position, under the impression that it will be an obstacle in the path to glory.

NEW POST OFFICES.—It will be seen that we have made an important addition to our monthly list of new post offices, by giving, opposite each, the number of the mail route upon which the office is situated. This it is believed will aid materially in enabling postmasters and route agents to give the right direction to mail matter intended for newly-established post offices, especially after it reaches the State or Territory in which the office is located.

In cases in which the supply is to be by special service, it will be so stated. We are informed at the Contract Office, that there will be as few changes as possible in the numbers of the routes at future lettings.

A COMPLICATED CASE.—A curious budget of blunders was recently developed in the "held for postage" department at the New York post office. A, in Boston, wrote to B, in New York, placing the letter in a lamp-post box, without the extra one-cent stamp required by law. B received the usual notice from the Boston post office, that a letter for him was held for postage. He at once wrote a letter to A, enclosing the notice, and requesting A to procure and forward the detained letter. After writing this letter, however, B placed it in a New York lamp-post box, also omitting the one-cent stamp, in consequence of which A received a notice that a letter to his address was "held." He, in his turn, endeavored to request B to get the letter, but, repeating his original blunder, only succeeded in having another notice sent to his friend—which fortunately led B to suspect that something was wrong, and to make inquiry at the New York office, where he finally obtained a solution of the mystery, and departed, after purchasing a supply of one-cent stamps for use in his future lamp post correspondence.

A SERIOUS ERROR.—It has been ascertained that parties employing Express companies for the conveyance of legal papers, drafts, etc., in sealed envelopes, are to some extent acting under the impression, that the revenue stamps required to be affixed to such envelopes are all that is necessary. In other words, that the demands of one branch of the government having been answered by the payment of the revenue stamp tax, postage stamps on the outside of the package may therefore be dispensed with.—Nothing could be more erroneous or unjust to the Post Office Department. And it is surprising that the Express men do not take pains to remind their customers of the mistake, if indeed it is such. Nothing which is mailable matter can legally go outside the mail, under existing laws, unless enclosed in a government stamped envelope of the proper rate or rates of postage.

PATENT SELF-BINDING PORTFOLIO.—This is a simple and convenient arrangement for preserving newspapers, music, &c., as the numbers or sheets come to hand, keeping them as accessible for reference as a bound volume. The sheets are arranged between two substantial covers and fastened by springs, which fix them as securely as could the book-binder. By this means the mutilation of the papers is obviated, as well as their disarrangement and loss. Every one who files newspapers or music should use these Portfolios, as they are cheap, durable and time-saving. Manufactured by J. N. Jacobs, Worcester, Mass.

BOX RENTS.—A subscriber asks us to state in the Mail what is the expense of hiring a box to the New York post office. This information can always be had on application of the office; but it may be a matter of convenience to the inquirer, and to other citizens, perhaps, to state that the price charged for a box is \$3 per annum, payable semi-annually in advance. The recent alterations in the post office building have increased the number of boxes some 1000, and there are quite a number not yet taken.

The amount of money found in letters at the Dead Letter Office during last year was over \$80,000, being an excess of \$30,000 on the amount of the previous year. This increase is supposed to be principally due to the large number of soldiers' letters, which, from misdirection and other causes, could not be delivered.

Stamp Redemption.

The redemption of soiled postage stamps at the New York office has been completed, and we have obtained from Mr. E. S. ZEVELY, who was appointed by the Department specially to superintend the details of the operation, the following figures, showing the amount of stamps presented, redeemed and rejected:

Amount presented in sums under \$5,	\$21,711 51
Presented in sums over \$5	238,697 63
Total presented for redemption,	260,409 14
Rejected	19,896 90
Redeemed	\$240,412 24

It will be seen from the above that only a small fraction over 7 2-3 per cent of the stamps presented were rejected as having been previously used for postage, or as being of the old issue. The amounts presented in sums over \$5 were contained in 4,833 packages, varying in value from \$5 to nearly \$9,000.

It is believed that the measures taken by the Department to prevent fraud in offering worthless stamps, were quite successful, and that the business of the redemption at the New York and other large offices has been carried through in a satisfactory and creditable manner.

LETTER STAMPS.—The proposals for furnishing Letter Stamps for the various post offices were opened at the Department on the 20th ult. There were only nine competitors, and the specimens of stamps offered, it is said, did not exhibit a very wonderful degree of inventive genius. The contract for supplying all offices excepting what are called Presidential offices, numbering less than 500, has fallen to the lot of E. S. ZEVELY, Esq., of Cumberland, Md., whose stamps, manufactured from box wood, are not unknown among gentlemen of letters. Offices, the gross receipts of which do not exceed \$100, are not furnished by the Department with rating stamps, but they can readily be obtained on application to Mr. Zevely. See his advertisement.

The contract for Presidential offices goes to the well-known firm of Fairbanks and Co., of New York. These stamps are to be made of steel, and so constructed as that both the post marking and stamp cancelling can be done at one blow—similar to the process now adopted in some of our largest offices.

AN IMPROPER ROUTE.—A letter was posted on the 3d day of Feb. last, in Boston, by one of the banks of that city, to the address of the Park Bank, New York. It contained enclosures to the amount of \$75,000, and its non-receipt, of course, gave its owner a good deal of trouble and anxiety, until it finally reached the last-mentioned bank on the 15th ult., with the addition of the Port Royal S. C. post mark, and "mis sent and forwarded" stamps of that office! It is difficult to give any satisfactory explanation in this strange case. There was evidently carelessness somewhere, as the letter was plainly and correctly addressed.

COLLECTORS IN SPECIE.—Among other postal measures adopted late in the session of the last Congress, was a joint Resolution, authorizing the Postmaster General to collect postage on unpaid foreign letters, in specie or its equivalent. In our last paper we briefly explained the object of this law, which is simply to protect the revenues of the department against a considerable loss in adjusting the heavy postal balances accruing against the Department.

Official instructions on this subject will be found in our first editorial column, together with a copy of the law referred to.

Postmasters and others need feel no hesitation in asking us questions in reference to the details of postal business, provided that their inquiries have a general bearing on the service, and the information sought is not to be found in the books and other instructions of the Department already within their reach.

What are Box Letters.

SIR.—I would like to make the following inquiries: 1st. Are postmasters to put letters in a private box, even if requested to do so, if they are not addressed to the care of the owner of said box, or to his number? 2d. Are postmasters or their clerks required to remember the names of all the family of any owner of a private box, even if they leave a list of the names in the office?

Under the general requirements of the Department, we will again remark, postmasters are expected to extend every reasonable accommodation to the public, in the delivery of letters no less than in other matters. No official regulations on the above points have been made, probably for the reason that none could be so shaped as to be generally applicable. This, and many similar details in the management of a post office, must necessarily be left to the judgment and convenience of the postmaster himself. In a first class office, it is perfectly justifiable to limit the box correspondence to letters addressed to the firm, or to its care, or to the number of the box. It is much easier for those receiving letters to instruct their correspondents how to address their letters, than for clerks, even in offices not of the largest size, to learn and remember the exact disposition to be made of them, especially under our system of frequent changes.

In smaller communities, where all the permanent members of a family or firm are well-known, and where other duties will admit of it, a postmaster should, in our judgment, comply with the request named in the first of the above questions, as he would not only oblige his customers, but save himself the trouble of searching at the general delivery. Where a list of names is furnished of parties whose letters are to be put in a given box, and it only embraces those belonging to the family, either permanently or for the time being, we would oblige the applicants, if we could conveniently, at the same time insisting that it is their duty to induce their regular correspondents to leave as little as possible to tax the memory, in superscribing their letters.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

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NEW YORK, MAY, 1863.

WHOLE No. 32.

The Dead Letter Office.

How THE WORK IS DONE.—There are probably very few of our readers who have the remotest idea of the immense number of dead letters which are sent quarterly, from the several post offices in the United States, to the dead letter office at Washington, which is under the immediate supervision of Hon. A. N. ZEVVLY, the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

During the quarter ending the 31st of March last, there were received at the dead letter office, 628,304 letters. Of these 20,303 were letters written in foreign countries, to persons in the United States. The foreign letters are returned monthly to the countries from whence they came. There are none of this class of letters ever opened here. Should they contain money, or other valuables, the Department is ignorant of the fact. Applications for letters of this kind, are needlessly made, unless the party can show, by a statement from the postmaster at the office to which the letter was directed, that it was actually received, and sent to the dead letter office, and also, when so sent.

Having disposed of the foreign letters, there are left 608,001, written in this country, being an average of 7,666 daily, for the quarter. These letters, as well as the foreign, all pass through the hands of two clerks, who check the post bills which accompany them, by which the postmasters get credit.

The ordinary letters which are really dead, having been advertised and held the usual time, average about 6000 per day, and are sent into the opening room, where there are twelve clerks employed in opening letters. Great care is required in opening, as letters often contain valuable papers, which would be useless if torn. It is therefore work that cannot be hurried. The class of letters opened, but not saved, are sealed circulars—a certain kind of "drops," and letters such as are written from "at home," or from no particular place, signed "Sister M.," "Cousin L.," "Pet," and the like, letters which do not give the slightest clue by which to return them. The writers of such letters, would no doubt be pleased to receive them, but they do not know they were not received, and that it was hopeless to look for a reply. These letters are fated to go into the basket, to be ground up and made into paper again, when a full signature would have saved them.

In opening letters, those containing money, jewelry, checks, insurance policies, photographs, deeds, wills, certificates, war, law papers, &c. are daily found. Those containing money are sent to the cashier of the dead letter office, who gives the clerk a receipt for the amount they contain. The cashier and his clerks register all money letters, and return them with a blank receipt to the postmaster at the office where they were mailed. Upon being claimed with proof of ownership, the money is delivered, the receipt signed and returned to the Department, where it is filed away and a note of the transaction made by the cashier in the register, opposite the claimant's name.

All photographs, jewelry, gold and silver watches, gloves, lace, in fact every thing that can be made mail matter; together with other articles over the value of one dollar, are sent to a clerk who with his assistants registers them and returns them to the postmasters where they were mailed, who deliver them and take receipts therefor, the same as in the case of money letters.

In the opening room letters in foreign languages, "drops," hospital letters, soldiers' descriptive lists, army papers, and letters containing stamps and change under the value of one dollar are put in separate bundles and with the other ordinary letters are sent as soon as opened to the division from whence the great mass of letters are returned to the writers. No record whatever is kept of such letters and no satisfactory information can be given concerning any one particular letter of this sort, that may be inquired for.

In this division there are twenty-two clerks, eleven of them ladies, whose duty it is to return letters. The letters are distributed daily as they come from the opening room, to the clerks, who send out each two hundred per day, on an average. Letters written in foreign languages are given to a special clerk, as are hospital letters, (written to soldiers and returned free,) as well as money, stamp letters, and army letters. All soldiers' descriptive lists, discharges, &c., are registered in this division, and sent to the Adjutant General's office, where they are filed.

The letters addressed to their writers monthly, will average 85,000. About twenty-two per cent of these come back with reasons given by postmasters, such as "moved away," "cannot be found," &c. A very small per cent of letters are "refused." The letters which thus come back, are destroyed and no inquiries concerning them can be satisfactorily answered.

Each clerk makes a report weekly to the head of the division, of the work he or she has done, who reports in turn, to the Third Assistant Postmaster General. Every effort is made to return letters, where there is the slightest clue. For instance, a letter is written in a small town, (where the postmaster is supposed to know all the inhabitants,) by "Sister Mary," addressed say, to Henry Palmer. The letter is returned

directed to "Mary, Sister of Henry Palmer." Many such are delivered.

The small change, postal currency and silver, under the value of a dollar, returned to the writers, average \$144 a month. Postage stamps returned average in amount \$412 per month. Postage stamps which cannot be returned are taken to the head of the stamp division, who gives an account of them, and destroys them. They average \$75 a month.

Previous to the act of Congress, approved Jan. 21, 1862, all dead letters, unless they contained important papers, valuables or money, were destroyed.

From the foregoing, it will appear that no satisfactory answers can be given by the Department to inquiries for ordinary dead letters. And postmasters when consulted, should discourage them as fruitless. Enquiries for letters containing money, drafts or other property, or for registered letters, should be accompanied by a statement of the postmaster to whose office they were directed, showing when advertised, and when sent to the dead letter office, (as in the case of foreign letters already mentioned.)

From and after the 1st of July next, the postage on letters returned to the writers, will be reduced—those without valuable enclosures, to three cents instead of six; and others to double the ordinary rates, instead of triple, as usual.

For the U. S. Mail.

To THE EDITOR: Sir.—The act for the reform of the Post Office, passed by the late Congress, having authorized the free delivery of letters in large cities, allow me to make a couple of suggestions which, if generally acted on, would I have no doubt from what I have seen during a residence of some years in England, very much facilitate the success of the plan.

One is, that every one should place his full address, number and name of street, not merely the city or town, as is now generally done, at the beginning of his letters, requesting his correspondents so to direct their letters. This will save a long and troublesome search in the name of the residence in a town, often an unsatisfactory one, on the part of the letter carrier who would then know at once, on sorting the letters for their different routes, on seeing the direction of a letter, which district letter-carrier ought to take charge of it.

Another suggestion that I would make, is, that all houses and places of business in large cities should be furnished with a letter-box placed in the door, with a hole in the outside in which to place letters. This would obviate the necessity of the carrier waiting until some one comes to take the letters from him. In London, the carrier rings the door-bell, deposits his letters, and has probably done the same at half a dozen other houses before the servant or other person answering the bell at the first house, has reached the door. Where unpaid foreign or other letters renders payment of postage necessary, some delay is unavoidable, but in the large majority of cases this does not occur. By way of security for the safety of letters, the proprietor of the house or place of business, has a lock and key to the letter box, so that no one but himself can have access to it.

The fact that no fee will be demanded by the carrier under the new law, would make the above plan of house and store letter-boxes more applicable to our system than heretofore.

This system of letter-boxes was considered of so much importance to the proper operation of the penny post system in England, that an idea was at one time seriously entertained by the Government, of inserting a clause in the "Building Act" rendering it compulsory on builders of new houses to provide such an arrangement. Whether it was ever actually done, I do not know.

It may also be stated that the letter-carriers in England are paid a salary. This feature may not seem calculated to secure that degree of efficiency and faithfulness to the public, which would result from making the carrier's compensation depend on the number of letters actually delivered. But it must be remembered that like other English post officials, the postman is a fixture. Nothing can disturb him excepting negligence or incompetency. And not only so, but his pay is increased as he advances in value and experience. This supplies an incentive to fidelity of which the public has the full benefit. I wish it could be substituted for the political tests which so much detract from the usefulness of our American postal system.

H. GIVE THE BOX NUMBER.—Considerable embarrassment and delay continue to occur, in large offices, in respect to letters addressed to individual members of firms, officers of institutions, &c., having letter boxes. The rule is, in our largest cities, to confine box letters to such as are addressed to the firm, or members thereof, provided that the latter shall have thereon the number of the box, or the words "Care of" the proper firm. This indispensable requirement, is however frequently neglected by distant letter writers, and owing to the failure of the memory of the clerks, to recollect to what particular firm Peter Blake, Esq. belongs, even though it

should happen to be Snooks, Blake & Snooks, the letter goes to the carrier, if addressed to a street and number. He carries it out, and Blake indignantly refuses to receive it, wishing to teach the careless clerks, once for all, that he has a box. The box clerks again "don't see it," and the unlucky missive next finds its way to the general delivery or perhaps to Washington. Blake, if lucky enough finally to overtake the obstinate prodigal, is "awful mad" with the clerks for daring to forget that he, Blake, married Miss Tompkins, the adopted daughter of one of the Snookses, thus adding dignity and reputation, if not wealth to the concern, they arranging to support Blake between them—that is, by putting his name after one Snooks and before the other! Still the clerks don't know him, in the midst of the confusion of tongues no less than of names, and the same thing happens again for precisely the same cause, namely, the neglect of B. to request his correspondents to give his letters a suitable direction.

The Canadian Mail Service.

We give below a few additional extracts from Inspector Dewey's "Canadian Postal Guide."

"In the evidence given by Franklin before the British House of Commons in the year 1765, in regard to the extent of the office accommodation in North America, I made the following statement:—

"The posts generally travel along the sea coasts, and only in a few cases do they go back into the country. Between Quebec and Montreal there is only one post per month. The inhabitants live so scattered and remote from each other in that vast country that they cannot be supported amongst them. The English colonies, too, along the frontier are very thinly settled."

"In the years 1792, 1798, and 1794, the mail was carried once per month between Montreal and Kingston, by a French Canadian named Morissette; between Kingston and York it was carried by Alex. Anderson; and between York and Niagara by a Mohawk Indian. The rate of travel was probably about 20 miles per day; the route being either by a path through the woods or along the shore of the River St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario; no regular road having been at that time in existence."

"Between Canada and the State of New York, and Niagara, the mail was carried once per week at a cost of \$200 per annum."

"The late Mr. Wood, who filled the office of postmaster of Cornwall for many years, thus describes the condition of the department in the Upper Canada Province about the year 1807:—

"When I first took charge of the post office in this place the mail was carried from Quebec to Amherstburg on the back of an old Canadian peddler; he performed his trip once in three months, and his arrival was hailed with joy by the then contented and loyal inhabitants throughout the country."

"The following advertisement, which appeared in the year 1833 in the *Colonial Advocate*, published at Queenston by the late Mr. W. L. Mackenzie, will give some idea of the postal facilities in the Upper Province at that period:—

POST RIDER WANTED IMMEDIATELY.

"The proprietor of this newspaper wishes to contract with a steady man (will can find and uphold his own horse) to deliver to the subscribers one week during the winter, on the route between York and Niagara, via Ancaster."

"The charge on letters delivered by Letter Carrier, in Canada, is two cents each letter in addition to the ordinary postage."

"The rate of commission charged on money orders drawn by any money order office in Canada, is as follows:—

If not exceeding in amount \$10	5 cents.
Exceeding \$10 and not exceeding \$20	10 "
" 20 " " " 30	15 "
" 30 " " " 40	20 "
" 40 " " " 50	25 "
" 50 " " " 60	30 "
" 60 " " " 80	40 "
" 80 " " " 100	50 "

"No half cents can be introduced into orders."

"No money order exceeding \$100 in amount can be granted on any office in Canada; but postmasters are liberty to grant two or more orders for \$100 or for any lesser sum. They cannot, however, grant two or more orders for sums of or under \$30 on the same day to the same applicant in favor of the same payee."

"Money orders on the United Kingdom are drawn in sterling money, and may be for any sum from one shilling to ten pounds. They must not, however, exceed the letter amount; but postmasters are at liberty to issue two or more separate orders for ten pounds each or for any smaller sum."

"The rate of commission charged on orders on the United Kingdom, over and above the currency value of the sterling, is as follows:—

"No information can be given respecting letters which pass through a post office except to the persons to whom they are addressed."

REDEMPTED GUM-BACKS.—The aggregate amount of postage stamps redeemed of the several post offices in the United States, may be stated in round numbers at about \$420,000. This is according to the official figures, although the redemption accounts are not quite closed up.

Any parties who have neglected to present their certificates for stamps deposited, at the proper post office, are expected to hand them in at once. The opportunity will not be unreasonably extended.

Loss of Army Letters.

Ever since the commencement of the war, complaints have been painfully numerous of the loss of soldiers letters, generally containing cash remittances. Among them we have heard of a good many cases of peculiar hardship, both to the parties remitting and to those for whose benefit the unfortunate missives were sent, or claimed to have been sent.

While, however, a considerable proportion of these failures have no doubt been occasioned by actual dishonesty in post offices, we have good reasons for believing that in a large number of instances, this class of letters reported as lost never got so far as a post office, or reached the custody of the government. And it is even more than probable that some of them never were written at all. The distance between many of the camps and the post offices, necessarily subjects such correspondence to unusual exposure, and the many detections which have occurred among regimental, brigade and division "post masters" and mail messengers, go far towards explaining the frequency of these heartless robberies; while the unavoidable risks in this particular, have no doubt been taken advantage of by unscrupulous persons employed in post offices.

It is a great pity that some way cannot be provided, by which a poor soldier can be made sure that his scanty earnings in defence of his government, will reach those for whose benefit they are intended. We think certificates of certain denominations, and payable say at the capital of the several loyal States, might be issued by the Treasury Department, and distributed among the soldiers, in whole or in part payment of their dues, which certificates could be remitted by mail instead of money. We know that such an arrangement would be acceptable to the soldiers and their friends, and it would at the same time, relieve postmasters from the great annoyances connected with remittances from the army, to which they have been and still are subjected.

Sentence of Brophy.

On pronouncing sentence, His Honor, Judge FIELD, addressed to the prisoner some feeling and highly appropriate remarks as follows:

Patrick Brophy.—One of the most painful duties imposed upon a Court, is to make the instrument for pronouncing the sentence of the law upon those, who either by their own confession or the verdict of a jury, have been found guilty of a criminal offence. I am made deeply sensible of this, now that for the first time I am called upon to perform this disagreeable duty. But painful though it be, it is a duty which must be discharged, and from which I cannot shrink. The indictment to which you have pleaded guilty, charges you with having, while employed in the Post Office establishment of the United States, embezzled letters containing bank notes and other valuable papers, with which you were intrusted, and which were intended to be conveyed by post. This is a most serious and aggravated offence, and the frequency of its occurrence makes it highly necessary that it should be punished with severity. The Post Office Department is one of the most useful and most beneficial branches of our Government. It circulates from one extremity to the other of our country, letters of a commercial, political, literary, and personal character, with a regularity and dispatch, that in former times would have been deemed fabulous. It thus comes home to the business and bosoms of all classes in the community, and of every individual from the highest to the lowest. By bringing the most distant places and persons near to each other, it promotes the happiness, relieves the anxieties, and cheers the solitude of millions. You have been deemed worthy of being employed in this Department of the Government. You have been selected as one of the agents for carrying out its beneficent purposes. But you have shamefully abused the confidence of the Government, and basely betrayed the trust reposed in you. Congress have marked their sense of the enormity of the crime you have committed, by the severity of the punishment they have annexed to it, imprisonment for a term not less than ten years, nor exceeding twenty-one.

As it is the intention of the Court to impose upon you the lowest punishment in its power, it is hardly worth while to inquire whether there are any extenuating circumstances in your case. The only thing of a mitigating character which has come to my knowledge, is the fact that you have made a prompt confession of your guilt. This, at least, is the first step in the path of repentance. The sentence of the Court is, that you be imprisoned in the State Prison of New Jersey, for the term of ten years, to commence from and after this date.

There was another indictment for a similar offence, to which the defendant pleaded guilty, and upon which he was sentenced to imprisonment for ten years, to begin also from the date of the sentence.

During the sentence, the prisoner was considerably affected, and after writing a letter to his wife, was removed from the Court room and conveyed to the State Prison.

"CANNOT BE FOUND."—A distributing post office, (the precise locality of which we decline to mention, but which may be found in the only State in the Union beginning with P) has in use a stamp for marking the words "cannot be found" on letters which from that cause are not delivered. Not long since, one bearing the name of the postmaster of the place was so stamped, and after remaining its allotted time in the office, was sent to Washington among other "dead" matter, from whence it soon returned, with an endorsement by a high official of the Department, expressing surprise that a P. M. enjoying a reputation for personal attention to the duties of his office, should have succeeded in eluding for so long a time, the vigilant search of his own clerks, and desiring that further efforts should be made to discover his whereabouts, and the result reported to the Department! Inquiry was made at once for the clerk who caused the stamp to be placed on the letter, but the latest report in regard to him is, that he "cannot be found."

VICTIMIZED POSTMASTERS.—We are very often in the receipt of letters from the postmasters of small offices inquiring as to the whereabouts and responsibility of certain parties from whom they have received circulars containing the most extravagant and tempting promises of valuable premiums and enormous commissions, to be paid on receipt of a certain number of subscribers names, (with the pay in advance) for an agricultural or other newspaper or gift enterprise, or some other of the various doubtful enterprises of which sharpers seem to consider postmasters the legitimate victims. The latter complain to us that they "have sent the money, but have received no reply," etc. In reply, we have no consolation for the past to give, but only advice for the future: and that is, to send us such inquiries before sending the money, not afterwards. Show us the bait, if you have any doubts, before entering the trap—do not wait till you are caught.

STRAINING A POINT.—A large package, sealed with great care, was sent to the "Dead Letter Office" sometime ago, from Singapore, East Indies, addressed to "His Majesty, Phra Pen Klau Prachun Yu Hna Maha, Uparat of the Kingdom of Siam, Bangkok."

The package was franked by an Hon. Member of the House of Representatives, who no doubt forgot that his privilege did not extend to foreign countries. As a matter of course, the American Consul, to whose care the package was addressed, refused to pay the postage, £3 l. 4s. (815) and the package was returned. When opened (as all letters and packages are at the Dead Letter Office) it was found to contain six London Illustrated Newspapers only, the perusal of which would no doubt have been exceedingly interesting to the King of Siam, provided he could have mastered our language, though such a rate of postage would have made them rather an expensive luxury, even for a king.

TAKE THE NUMBERS.—It is very essential that parties enclosing bank notes in letters, for transmission in the mail, should be particular in retaining the number, letter and date of each bill. If lost or stolen this will aid essentially in tracing out the robbery and in the return of the property to the rightful owner, provided it is recovered in whole or in part. It is not enough to be able to say that the notes posted were of particular denominations and on certain banks. Such identification is not sufficient to authorize the restoration, if found.

"The practice of retaining a pretty full description, would, if generally followed, tend greatly to prevent depredations, and aid materially in convictions where robberies are committed and detected.

Postmasters are respectfully requested to urge a compliance with the above suggestions upon those having occasion to make cash remittances. It might be well to post up in a conspicuous place, perhaps near the general delivery, such a request.

Letter Addresses.

Should you ask the destination, Destination of this letter, I should answer, I should tell you, I should tell you, Uncle Samuel From this office, thence to take it Over the hills along the borders, Borders of the Lake Chautauqua To that pleasant inland City, To that Wondrous side hill City Jamestown, in Chautauqua County There, to leave it for my Sister, Better to give the Printer.

Mrs. Blenker, fort pillow or the wife of an Indiana soldier that got off the champion Friday evening April third With two small children helped as she said by a captain belonging to the same Indiana regiment.

Haste thee, letter, speed thy way, To Conn elicit, without delay, And when to Milford you have come Remain in box 171. Till Sarah Sawyer calls for you, Thea bid her answer quickly, do.

Hurry this on to De Witt C. Waugh, Or you shall feel the weight of my paw. He lives, it is said, in Denver City, At the foot of Pike Peak, thus ends my ditty.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, MAY, 1863.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. Holbrook, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

Changes in Foreign Postages.

A number of important alterations will be found in our Table of Foreign Postages this month. A reduction of two cents has been made on the pre-paid postage of all letters by Prussia closed mail; pre-payment of letters to Newfoundland is made compulsory instead of optional, as heretofore; and the postage to Mexico (with certain exceptions, which are noted in the table) is increased to thirty-four cents per half ounce for letters and six cents each for newspapers. Postage to Cape of Good Hope, Natal, and other places on the south-west coast of Africa, also to St. Helena and Ascension, must heretofore be pre-paid in full—forty-five cents per half ounce for letters, newspapers four cents each.

For the convenience of those posting letters for foreign countries, and in order to save them the unnecessary trouble of frequent examinations of the foreign postage tables, we shall hereafter note immediately under the editorial head any change in such postage rates that may occur. If no such notice appears, it may be taken as conclusive that no alterations have been made during the previous month.

Hon. JOHN A. KASSON sailed for Europe on the 4th ult. in the steamer Saxonia, to be present at the General Postal Convention, which meets at Paris on the 11th inst.

Important Postal Regulations.

[OFFICIAL.]

Reduction of Postage on all Pre-paid Letters transmitted in the United States and Prussian Closed Mail.

We are requested to state that the reduced postage charge of 2 cents the single rate on pre-paid letters, will, in future, be extended to the entire correspondence exchanged in the United States and Prussian closed mails, so that letters to or from Baden, Russia, (including Poland,) Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and all other countries beyond Germany, will have the benefit of the reduced pre-paid rate.

The single rate of letter postage by the Prussian closed mail will therefore be as follows, viz:

To Prussia, Austria, and the German States	25 cents.	30 cents.
To Russia (including Poland)	33 "	37 "
To Denmark	33 "	35 "
To Sweden	40 "	42 "
To Norway	44 "	46 "

And so on with respect to all other countries beyond Germany, 2 cents less postage being charged for pre-paid than for unpaid letters.

Rates of Postage to the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension, by British Mail via England. Also, to Foreign Possessions in the West Indies, &c., via the United Kingdom.

We are requested to state, that the British Post Office, having on the 1st of April ult., increased the British postage to one shilling sterling (twenty-four cents) upon letters conveyed by packet between the United Kingdom and the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension; the single rate of letter postage between the United States and those Colonies, respectively, will heretofore be forty-five cents, pre-payment required.

Also, letters posted in the United States, which the sender may desire to transmit via the United Kingdom, and thence by means of the British Mail Packets, to the following Foreign Possessions in the West Indies, &c., viz: St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Eustacia, St. Martin, Cayenne, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Surinam, Caracca, Porto Rico, and the Mosquito Territory, will be subject to the same increased rate of forty-five cents, (U. S. and British postage), pre-payment required.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.—A practice prevails at many Post Offices in this country, of delivering, free of postage, newspapers received from Great Britain and Ireland. This practice is erroneous, and results either from inattention to the published regulations of the Department, or from the mistaken notion which many postmasters appear to have, that the English penny stamps, attached to such papers, pre-pay the full postage.

Our Postal Convention with the United Kingdom provides that each country shall levy and collect its own postage only on newspapers, at the rate of two cents each, whether they are sent or received. Hence newspapers received in this country from Great Britain, come pre-paid the British postage only, and postmasters must be particular, in all cases, to collect the United States charge of two cents, on their delivery.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. APPOINTMENT OFFICE.

Washington, 1st April, 1863.

In order to insure the prompt and certain delivery of letters and other mail matter addressed to officers and soldiers serving in the army of the Potomac, or stationed near Washington, D. C., the Post Master General directs that Postmasters, in making up their mails whether for Washington direct, or for distributing offices, shall place all army letters in packages by themselves, and plainly mark them "Army Letters," so that when such packages arrive in Washington they may be taken at once to an apartment provided for their reception, without being opened with the mails for the city.

St. JOHN B. L. SEINER,
Acting 1st Asst. P. M. G.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.—The question having often been raised whether the old or new postage rates on newspapers are to be adhered to in cases where payments have already been made beyond the first of July next, we addressed the Department on the subject, with the following result:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
APPOINTMENT OFFICE.

Washington, 1st April, 1863.

Sir—Yours of the 14th ult. is received. In answer, I have to say, that in all cases where subscribers have paid postage for a period extending beyond the 1st of July, 1863—at which time the new post office law goes into effect—they are entitled to receive the papers so paid for, without paying the increased rate called for by the new law—provided such payment was made prior to the passage of that law—i. e., 3d March, 1863.

Respectfully, Your Obedt. Servt.,
St. JOHN B. L. SEINER,
Acting 1st Asst. P. M. G.

J. HOLBROOK, Esq., Special Agent P. O. D.

Rates of Postage to and from Mexico, via Havana, in the British Mail.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, APRIL 18, 1863.

In the absence of any direct means of transporting mails by sea between the United States and Mexico, either by United States or Mexican vessels, as provided in the postal convention between the two countries, it has become necessary to use, temporarily, the British mails as a medium of mail communication. Instructions have therefore been given to the postmaster of New York to make up and forward correspondence for Mexico to the office of the British packet agent at Havana, Cuba, for transmission thence to destination, in the British Mail, under the provisions of our postal convention with Great Britain.

The correspondence thus forwarded by way of Havana, and transported thence by the British mail packets to Tampico and Vera Cruz—the two Mexican ports at which the British packets call—will be subjected to a combined United States and British postage charge of 34 cents the single rate of half an ounce or under for letters, and 6 cents each for newspapers—pre-payment required.

Correspondence from Mexico, conveyed to Havana in the British mail, and forwarded thence to the United States, will be subject to precisely the same rate of United States postage, on delivery, as are charged upon like correspondence originating in Cuba and addressed to the United States, viz: 10 cents the single rate for letters, and 3 cents each for newspapers. Postmasters will take notice of this arrangement, and collect postage accordingly, when the British mail is used as the medium of conveyance.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

The New Specie Law.

The order of the Postmaster General, under authority of law, for the collection of postage on foreign unpaid letters in coin or its equivalent, took effect on the 1st inst. It is believed that the number of such unpaid letters will materially decrease hereafter, as parties will no doubt in very many cases urge upon their correspondents abroad, the propriety of pre-paying their letters. It is hoped that the cause which required this measure, will be but temporary.

When payment of the postage due on this class of letters is tendered in government notes, the rate should be computed upon the value of silver only, and not on that of gold, and the premium to be charged on each letter should be that fixed by the postmaster on the day of its delivery, not that which prevailed on the day of its receipt.

We give this information on the authority of the Department.

SHAMEFUL.—Postmasters in all directions complain that the mails are extensively prostituted to immoral and vicious purposes, and that through this channel obscene books, circulars, &c. are sent broadcast throughout the country. We are informed that some wretch in human form, who is engaged in this soul-destroying business, recently by some means obtained the names of about fifteen hundred young girls belonging to families of the highest respectability in Chicago, Ill., and sent to the address of each, a copy of a circular, offering at fixed prices, books and articles of the most loathsome description.

The authority of the Postmaster General may already be sufficient to enable him to put a stop to such a vile perversion of one of our noblest and most valuable public institutions. If it is not, it do not will be ample, soon after the next Congress convenes.

SPEECH OF THE P. M. GENERAL.—At the mass meeting of the Loyal League held at Union Square, in New York, on April 11th, the Hon. Montgomery Blair was present and delivered a most able speech, which was listened to with great interest by the large assemblage, and which has since been the subject of much favorable comment by the press of the country. Judge B's masterly treatment of the aspect of our foreign affairs was especially marked. We regret that our space forbids us to give even an extract.

A communication on the 1st page, makes an important suggestion in view of the changes to be made by the new law, in the letter carrier system in our large cities. It advocates the plan adopted in London, of attaching private letter boxes to the doors of dwelling houses, stores, offices, &c., by which means a more rapid delivery of letters could be made. The necessity of seeing the owner of a letter personally, in order to get the post-man's fee, will no longer exist, as there will be no such tax except upon unpaid foreign letters, and perhaps occasionally upon a "short paid" domestic letter or parcel.

Patrick Brophy.

The recent arrest of Patrick Brophy, at Jersey City, for mail robbery, has already been published in the New York and other newspapers. For some fifteen years he had held the position of Mail Messenger, having received his appointment directly from the Department. So promptly did he discharge his principal duty—that of conveying the Jersey City mails to and from New York and the Jersey mail train—that he had gradually won the entire confidence of the government and the community generally as a faithful and reliable officer. As a citizen, he possessed many popular traits of character, and with this party leaders in Jersey City, on all sides, he was recognized as a man of considerable political influence and tact. Hence the great surprise almost universally manifested, when it became publicly known that he had been taken into custody, charged with one of the most heinous crimes known to the criminal laws of the land.

There were those, however, with whom from certain facts officially known, less astonishment was produced by the event just named. An unusual number of recent complaints of missing money letters, for an office of that size, had attracted the attention of the Department and its Agents, and investigations conducted with more or less secrecy, while they failed to justify any distinct charge, did not relieve Brophy from strong suspicions. It was known that besides his outside duties, he had for a long time assisted in the post office, in opening and assorting the class of packages which should have contained the lost letters, and that the division of the work at those particular hours, gave him much the best opportunities for dishonesty. But if a deprecator, he was known as a man of shrewdness and as having superior facilities for discovering and thwarting any plans that might be adopted for his detection. Like hundreds of his criminal predecessors, he extended his nefarious practice just one step too far. The Special Agent was in too close proximity this time, to admit of any subterfuge of escape, and in one short hour's fair public reputation for faithfulness and integrity, was exchanged for the position of a detected mail robber and a despised felon! This occurred on the 2d of April, and just twenty days from that date, he had been indicted in the U. S. Court sitting at Trenton, tried, and sentenced to the New Jersey Penitentiary for a term of ten years at hard labor. It is seldom that such sure and speedy justice has so closely followed a crime of this magnitude.

For the family of Brophy—an innocent wife and young child—we entertain a feeling of sincere sympathy and commiseration. For Brophy himself, none whatever. He was a man well advanced in years, and was not ignorant of the nature of the crime he was committing—oft repeated, 'tis now, every reason to believe, for a considerable length of time. The penalty of \$900 per year, was sure and ample. Many of the deprecations fairly attributable to him, included cases of distressing hardship, and on his part, real heartlessness. His indiscriminate plunderings involved in some instances the loss of letters addressed by poor soldiers in the army, and sea-faring men far away, to their almost destitute families.

We trust that the postal atmosphere of Jersey City has been permanently purified by the removal of this disturbing element.

P. S. We have received a copy of the sentence, as delivered by the Judge, since the above was in type. It will be found on the first page.

AN UNEXPECTED CALL.—A somewhat amusing incident occurred in the New York post office a few evenings since, in connection with an unexpected visit from the Postmaster General, who had called in to see this great establishment by gas light, on his way to the Washington train. Entering at one of the rear doors where the mails are received, he had passed nearly to the front part of the office unobserved, when he was discovered by one of the porters, who called to him rather abruptly to "stop." "Hallo Mister," said Martin, "don't you know that no strangers are allowed here at this hour. What's wanting?"

Judge BLAIR, rather liking the joke, made no great haste to explain matters, and being soon recognized by one of the principal clerks, an apology was tendered. But the Judge wanted nothing of the kind, remarking however, that "strangers" should not be allowed to penetrate even that far into the office, without being "brought to." The admonition was a wholesome one, and it has been noticed that the man on "picket duty," has since moved his position nearer to the Liberty street "front."

CARE IN STAMPING LETTERS.—Complaint is made that in the process of stamping letters, sufficient care is not taken to avoid injury to any articles which may be enclosed, and that the utter destruction of such articles has sometimes been the result, although pains had been taken to secure their protection by confining them in the left hand lower corner of the letter, and as far away from the postage stamp as possible.

In large offices, especially, it is hardly possible that every letter can be examined sufficiently to determine whether or not it has such enclosures, and they must necessarily take their chances if not placed and confined in a part of the letter envelope not liable to receive a blow from the post-marking or cancelling instrument. But when this precaution has been taken, we don't see how any damage can result from that cause, short of special pains on the part of the stamper, who is supposed to strike upon the postage stamp, and near it in affixing the post mark. What can he be doing on the opposite corner? The damage may sometimes happen by the letter lying unevenly beneath the one being stamped. All possible care should be taken to avoid such injurious consequences.

"Sands of Life."

The detection of Brophy, the Jersey City mail robber, is of course regarded as of no small public benefit by the citizens of that place; and perhaps by none more so than that long-suffering individual, the celebrated "retired physician, whose sands of life have nearly run out," (or who, as another expressed it, "has been afflicted with a loose tail-board to his mortal cart.") This superannuated disciple of Galen, it appears, has for many years been awaiting the final exhalation of his stock of sand in the peaceful retirement of Jersey City, from whence he issues his well known advertisements, and where his letters are addressed; and as most of these were handled by Brophy, it is not surprising that the number which reached their destination recently began to grow "small by degrees." Since Brophy's arrest, however, the heart of the aged and afflicted ex-practitioner has been gladdened by a very perceptible increase in his correspondence, while, as we learn, from that (or some other) cause, he would now hardly be supposed, from his appearance, to be over thirty-five years of age! This apparent juvenility may however be accounted for by the fact that some benevolent individual recently forwarded to him by express, a large (though unpaid) package, which on being opened was found to contain a half-bushel bag of the very article of which he was in such evident need—sand!

A NEW POSTAGE STAMP.—The rate of postage fixed by the new law, for local or drop letters, has rendered it necessary to provide a new stamp of the proper denomination, namely, two cents. There are various designs and specimens under consideration at the Department, none of which we understand, have as yet been adopted.

As after July first, all letters delivered, or collected for the mail by carriers, are to be free of charge beyond the legal pre-paid rates, namely, two cents the half ounce or fraction thereof, on "drop" letters, and three cents per ounce or fraction, on those passing through the mails, the extra penny stamp now required on mail letters deposited in the lamp post or pillar boxes, will be dispensed with. Although this feature in the carrier system in our large cities has heretofore been deemed necessary, still we will venture to congratulate the public on its prospective abolition, as from the first it has been the cause of no little perplexity and disappointment to city correspondents. In many cases their memory seems to have become exhausted with the pre-payment of the simple mailing rates, thus dooming their letters to temporary confinement, under the familiar sentence of "held for postage." We could furnish some serious as well as amusing results to this penny-lacking correspondence. Upon no single postal requirement has it been so difficult to educate the public as in the pre-payment of postage. We trust that the new two-penny system will be more easily comprehended and uniformly regarded.

P. S. Since we prepared the above, we learn from the Department that the portrait of GENERAL JACKSON has been adopted as a design for the new postage stamp above mentioned. Stamped envelopes of the same rate, for circulars, are to be provided.

AN HONORABLE ACT.—While Brophy, the mail robber, whose arrest is noticed in another column, was in jail at Hudson City, awaiting the action of the Grand Jury, his unfortunate wife, with a true woman's constancy and devotion, made every effort in her power, to assist her guilty husband. Being possessed of a little property in her own right—about \$400—she applied to E. B. WAREMAN, Esq., of Jersey City, (who acted as Brophy's counsel at the preliminary examination) to defend him on the trial, and offered him all her little fortune for his services. Mr. WAREMAN, however, with a magnanimity, honorable alike to him as a gentleman and as a professional man, refused the offer, and knowing the entire uselessness of attempting a defence, advised Mrs. B. not to waste her money in lawyer's fees, but to retain it against the day of need. It gives us the more pleasure to record this action of a true gentleman, from the fact that it affords to the conduct of some of those harpies who disgrace the legal profession, by accepting as fees, the hard earnings of the friends of the guilty, whose defence they know will be a hopeless task.

A BAD PRACTICE.—In the investigation of some recent complaints of the loss of remittances by mail, where the letters themselves had come to hand, it appeared that more than one prominent business house had been in the habit of placing such valuable contents outside of the letter sheet, and between that and the envelope. In one case, in which a firm was called to mourn the mysterious absence of some \$20,000 in notes, checks and drafts, it was satisfactorily ascertained that the innocent absentees had formed a part of the contents of the waste basket in the house in Boston to which they were sent, having accompanied the cast-off envelope as far as that convenient receptacle, and thence to the paper mill.

Previous to this discovery, the valuable had of course been advertised as having been "stolen from the mails." The careless sender squelched the notice after the first insertion, and has, in consequence of the above mortifying accident, abandoned the use of envelopes altogether.

PRINTED SLIPS FOR WRAPPERS.—In the communication from the Postmaster of Derby, Conn., published in the Mail for March, briefly describing a mode adopted by him for preparing printed slips for letters and other packages, an offer was omitted, to supply any postmaster with a sample sheet of the labels used in the above office. We are authorized to say, that those wishing such samples will be cheerfully accommodated, on application direct to the postmaster of Derby.

The New Act.

Since the passage and publication of the recent law of Congress, involving several important changes in the postal business of the country, there has been manifested no little anxiety among postmasters, publishers and others, as to the proper construction to be put upon some of its principal provisions. For the information of those interested, we will state that the Department will soon publish, in pamphlet form, the law itself, with full and simple instructions for the guidance of all officers, in its execution. A copy of this pamphlet circular, will no doubt be in the hands of all postmasters, route agents, etc., prior to the 1st of July, when the Act takes effect.

This will explain our silence upon points upon which our humble opinion has been already sought, by correspondents and patrons, inasmuch as it is no part of our duty to forestall in the least, the official action of the proper officers of the Department, in such matters.

Our advice is that none of our postal brethren should resign, under the impression prevalent to some extent, that it "won't pay" to stay in the service beyond the present fiscal quarter.

THE WEST.—We can assure a Western postmaster that the "only fault" he finds with the "Mail," namely, that we do not give quite enough attention to postal matters in the West, is by no means intentional, and that this neglect so far as it exists, is rather more the fault of himself and his brother postmasters and agents than our own. The strictly official matters which we publish from time to time, are of course alike applicable to all the States, and as for Western local items it is somewhat troublesome to obtain them, excepting through correspondents. We confess we have been somewhat disappointed in the meagre contributions received from distant points and sections. There is hardly a post office in the land that could not furnish a column of appropriate and readable matter monthly, and with but very little trouble or origenuity. Those not accustomed to putting things in the right shape to print, need not hesitate to send them in the "rough," as we will always do our best to give them a tolerably readable shape.

Special Agents will please favor us with more frequent selections from the abundant stock of raw materials which must be constantly accumulating on their hands.

JUVENILE MAIL ROBBERIES ARRESTED.—Two boys, both under twelve years of age, one of them the son of the Postmaster at Chnrhusco, N. Y. were arrested at that place lately, on a charge of mail robbery. The evidence of their having taken over two hundred letters from the Chnrhusco post office, is very clear, and the U. S. District Attorney, Dart, upon an investigation of the case, has decided to prosecute them, notwithstanding their youth.

[OFFICIAL CIRCULAR.]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, APRIL 18, 1863.

Sir—Under existing postal arrangements, postage collected on foreign letters must be accounted for by the Department to foreign governments in specie or its equivalent; and at the present rate of exchange, the remittance of the balances of postage due to foreign Post Offices, in consequence of the very large excess of collections made in the United States, has been attended with heavy loss to the revenue of this Department.

The following joint Resolution to remedy this evil was approved March 3d, 1863—

A RESOLUTION

"Authorizing the collection in coin of postage due on unpaid mail matter from foreign countries—

Whereas the failure to prepay foreign correspondence throws upon the Post Office Department of the United States large balances, which have to be paid in coin—

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That the Postmaster General do cause to be hereby authorized to take such measures as may seem to him advisable to collect postage on letters from abroad not pre-paid, in order to avoid loss in the payment of such balances—

In pursuance of the provisions of this resolution, you are hereby directed, from and after the first day of May next, to collect in gold or silver coin all postage due on unpaid letters received from foreign countries in the mails despatched to this country from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen or Belgium, and to hold the coin so collected subject to the special drafts or orders of this Department. Should, however, payment of such postage and of the premium on a corresponding amount of coin tendered you in United States notes, you are authorized to accept the same in lieu of coin.

You will report weekly to the Third Assistant Postmaster General the amount of coin thus collected at your office, and also report separately the amount thereof received in the ordinary course of business, and retain the same subject to special draft or order.

For the present, this order will apply exclusively to the mails received from the countries above mentioned.

On outgoing letters the existing regulations remain unchanged.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

RATES OF POSTAGE TO NEWFOUNDLAND.—The Postmaster General has issued the following order, which will publish for the information of postmasters and the public, viz:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, MARCH 18, 1863.

It appearing that postage is levied and collected in the province of Newfoundland upon all letters received from the United States, without reference to prepayment made in this country; and that the arrangement establishing a combined international rate of postage, the prepayment of which is optional, each country to retain the postage it collects, which has been made between the United States and Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Islands, has not been applied, in practice, by the General Post Office of the province of Newfoundland—it is therefore ordered, that hereafter the United States postage only, of ten cents the single rate for any distance not exceeding 2,500 miles, and of twenty cents for greater distances, established by the act of March 3, 1851, be levied and collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States, as the case may be, upon all letters addressed to or received from Newfoundland, by the route of New Brunswick.

All letters addressed to or received from Newfoundland, via Boston, by British Mail Packets, shall be pre-paid at the mailing office, and collected at the office of delivery, in the United States, at the rate of ten cents. Postmasters are instructed to carry this order into effect immediately. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, MARCH 30, 1863.

Yours of the 27th inst. is received. In answer I have to say that the Department has decided that Photographs Alabama are not properly considered, "mailable matter," and that when sent in the mails they are subject to letter rates of postage, to be prepaid by stamps, agreeably to the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 30th of August, 1852.

Respectfully your obedient servant,
St. JOHN B. L. SEINER,
Acting First Assistant P. M. General.
J. HOLBROOK, Esq., Special Agent P. O. D., N. Y.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

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NOTE.—Five cents the single letter, of half ounce or under, must be added to the rates named in this table by "British mail," "via England," or "via London," respectively, if the letter is from California, Oregon, or Washington.

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Countries	Not exceeding quarter ounce	Not exceeding half ounce	Not exceeding one ounce
Acapulco	10	10	10
Aden, British mail, via Southampton	33	33	33
do do via Marseilles	39	39	39
do French mail	30	30	30
Adranople, French closed mail	30	30	30
Africa (West Coast), British mail	30	30	30
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	21	21	21
do do do by Brit. pkt.	5	5	5
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	30	30
do do French mail	30	30	30
do do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	21	21	21
do do do by Brit. pkt.	5	5	5
Algeria, French mail	15	15	15
Altona, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 31c.)	33	33	33
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	27	27	27
do do French mail	27	27	27
Antwerp, French mail, via Southampton	30	30	30
Arabia, British mail, via Southampton	33	33	33
do do via Marseilles	39	39	39
Argentine Republic, via England	45	45	45
do do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	45	45	45
Ascension, via England	10	10	10
Aspinwall, for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles	10	10	10
do do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	20	20	20
Australia, British mail, via Southampton	39	39	39
do do do via Marseilles	45	45	45
do do by private ship from N. York or Boston	30	30	30
do do French mail (South Austr. compulsory, by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Soer.)	50	50	50
do do by Bremen and Hamburg mail, via Trieste	30	30	30
Austria and its States, Prussian closed mail	30	30	30
do do do do when prepaid	28	28	28
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do (except prov. in Italy) French mail	21	21	21
Azores Island, British mail, via Portugal	37	37	37
Baden, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 28c.)	30	30	30
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do French mail	15	15	15
Bahamas, by direct steamer from New York	21	21	21
Bangkok, Siam, via Southampton	51	51	51
do do do via Marseilles	57	57	57
Batavia, British mail, via Southampton	45	45	45
do do do via Marseilles	51	51	51
do do do French mail	30	30	30
Batavia, Prussian closed mail, when prepaid	28	28	28
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do French mail	15	15	15
Belgium, French mail	21	21	21
do do do do via England	21	21	21
do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
Belgrade, do do do by American pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
do do do do French mail	21	21	21
Beirut, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	40	40
do do do do French mail	30	30	30
Bogota, New Granada	18	18	18
Bolivia, do do do do	45	45	45
Borneo, British mail, via Southampton	45	45	45
do do do do via Marseilles	51	51	51
do do do do French mail	30	30	30
Bourbon, British mail, via Southampton	33	33	33
do do do do via Marseilles	39	39	39
do do do do French mail	30	30	30
Brazil, via England	45	45	45
Bremen, Prussian closed mail	30	30	30
do do do do when prepaid	28	28	28
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do French mail	15	15	15
British North American Provinces, when distance does not exceed 3,000 miles	10	10	10
do do do do exceeding 3,000 miles	15	15	15
do do do do when prepaid	28	28	28
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do do French mail	15	15	15
Buenaventura, do do do do	18	18	18
do do do do via England	45	45	45
do do do do do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	30	30
Calcutta, British mail, via Southampton	39	39	39
Canada—see British North American Provinces			
Canary Islands, via England	33	33	33
Candia, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	40	40
do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
Canea, British mail, via American packet	21	21	21
do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
do do do do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	40	40
do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
Capo de Verde Hope, via England	45	45	45
Caribbean Islands, via England	39	39	39
do do do do in French mail, via Bordeaux and Lisbon	30	30	30
Cartagena	18	18	18
C. Amer. Pac. slope, via Panama (except Guatemala)	20	20	20
Ceylon, open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
Chagres, (New France) distance exceeding 3,000 miles	10	10	10
do do do do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	20	20	20
Chili	34	34	34
China, British mail, via Southampton	45	45	45
do do do do via Marseilles	51	51	51
do do do do do by Brit or Hamb mail via Trieste	51	51	51
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail via Marseilles and Soer	40	40	40
do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
do do do do do by mail to San Francisco, by private ship	10	10	10
Constantinople, Prus. closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	40	40
do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do do by Brit. pkt.	5	5	5
Cora—see Ionian Islands			
Corica, British mail, via American packet	21	21	21
do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
Cuba, when distance does not exceed 2,500 miles	10	10	10
do do do do does exceed 2,500 miles	20	20	20
Cuxhaven, via England	45	45	45
Cuxhaven, Prussian closed mail	30	30	30
do do do do when prepaid	28	28	28
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do do French mail	15	15	15
Dardanelles, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	40	40
do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
Denmark, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	35	35	35
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	20	20
do do do do do French mail	27	27	27
Durazzo, Prussian closed mail	38	38	38
do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
East Indies, open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
do do do do do Prussian closed mail, via Trieste	68	68	68
do do do do do (English possessions), Prussian closed mail, via Trieste	36	36	36
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Soer.	40	40	40
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Trieste	30	30	30
Ecuador	34	34	34
Egypt, except Alexandria, Brit. mail, via Southampton	33	33	33
do do do do do (except Alexandria), British mail, via Marseilles	39	39	39
do do do do do (except Alexandria), Prussian closed mail	38	38	38
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
Farland Islands, via England	33	33	33
Fayal—see Azores Islands			
Frankfurt, French mail	21	21	21
do do do do do Prussian closed mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do when prepaid	28	28	28
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do do do French mail	15	15	15
Galatz, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	40	40
do do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
Gallipoli, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	40	40

Countries	Not exceeding quarter ounce	Not exceeding half ounce	Not exceeding one ounce
Gallipoli, French mail	38	38	38
Gambia, via England	33	33	33
Guadaloupe, via England	45	45	45
Guatemala	10	10	10
German States, Prus. closed mail (if prepaid, 28c.)	30	30	30
do do do do do French mail	21	21	21
do do do do do do Bremen mail	15	15	15
do do do do do do (except Luxemburg), by Ham'g mail	15	15	15
Gibraltar, French closed mail	21	21	21
do do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
Great Britain and Ireland, (California, Oregon, or Washington excepted)	24	24	24
Greece, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 40c.)	30	30	30
do do do do do French mail	15	15	15
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
Hamburg, do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do do do Prussian closed mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do do when prepaid	28	28	28
do do do do do do do French mail	21	21	21
Havana, see Cuba			
Havre, via England	45	45	45
Heligoland, Island of, by British mail, in Am. pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do do do in Brit. pkt.	5	5	5
do do do do do do do do via England, by private ship	33	33	33
Holland, French mail	21	21	21
do do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21
do do do do do do do by British packet	5	5	5
Hobstein, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	35	35	35
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do do do French mail	27	27	27
Honduras	34	34	34
Hong Kong, Brit. mail via Marseilles	51	51	51
do do do do do do do via Southampton	45	45	45
do do do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do do Prussian closed mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do do do do do do do do French mail, via Marseilles	39	39	39
do do do do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do do do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do do do do do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do do do do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
Italy—see Sardinian States, Lombardy, Modena, Parma, Tuscany, Roman States, and Two Sicilies			
Java, British mail, via Southampton	45	45	45
do do do do do do do via Marseilles	51	51	51
do do do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do do do do open British mail, by American packet	21	21	21
do by British packet	5	5	5
Japan, British mail, via Southampton	45	45	45
do do do do do do do do via Marseilles	51	51	51
do do do do do do do do do French mail	30	30	30
do Prussian closed mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do when prepaid	28	28	28
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15
do French mail	15	15	15
do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	38	38	38
do French mail	30	30	30
do do do do do do do do do			

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. III. No. 9.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1863.

WHOLE No. 33.

Official Instructions.

Full instructions applicable to the various sections of the postal law passed at the last session of Congress, have been prepared by the proper officers of the Department, and are now being issued in pamphlet form for the use of all postmasters. When copies of this convenient and necessary guide shall have been circulated, answers will be found to the many applications which have been made to us.

They will, no doubt, reach most if not all post offices, nearly as soon as this sheet will be in the hands of those to whom it is sent. Therefore, owing to the lateness of the hour at which we received our pamphlet copy, we are compelled to limit our extracts to such points as are immediately material, and upon which our official friends are most anxious.

SECTION 1.—PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.
INSTRUCTION No. 1.—The Auditor for the Post Office Department will report to the Appointment Office, as soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, any account for the annual compensation of a postmaster which would change the classification of the office from presidential or departmental, or vice versa. It grade will be ascertained and entered accordingly in the books of the Appointment Office.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General, all postmasters, and special agents, and all persons employed in the General Post Office, or in the care, custody, or conveyance of the mail, whether appointed or employed, shall, previous to entering upon the duties assigned them, or the execution of their trusts, and before they shall be entitled to receive any emoluments therefor, in addition to the oath of office prescribed by the act of July two, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, respectively take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation before some magistrate, and cause a certificate thereof to be filed in the General Post Office: "I, A. B. do swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will faithfully perform the duties required of me, and abstain from everything forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of the post office and post roads within the United States; and that I will honestly and truly account for and pay over any moneys belonging to the said United States which may come into my possession or control; so help me God." Every person who shall be in any manner employed in the care, custody, conveyance or management of the mail shall be liable to all pains, penalties, and forfeitures for violating the injunctions or neglecting the duties required of him by the laws relating to the establishment of the post office and post roads, whether such person shall be delivered on the oath or affirmation above prescribed or not.

INSTRUCTION No. 2. This oath and that required by the act of July 2, 1862, may be combined in one affidavit.

SECTION 3.—PREPAYMENT AND BOX RENTS.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That no mail matter shall be delivered by the postmaster until the postage due thereon shall have been paid, and that no person until the rent therefor has been paid for at least one quarter, for which the postmaster shall give a receipt, and keep a record thereof in his office, which record shall be delivered to his successor.

INSTRUCTION No. 3. This section absolutely prohibits the delivery of any letter, newspaper, pamphlet, or package whatever, until the postage charged thereon shall be paid. Postmasters must strictly conform to it. Printed matter must be retained until it is paid for, either as a transient package or for a quarter, as provided in sections 18 and 35.

Each Postmaster must keep a list of all box holders, with the number of the box assigned to each, and the time during which he has used it. This list shall be examined by special agents, and be delivered to his successor in office. The postmaster must deliver in his quarterly returns the amount of box-rents accrued in each quarter, whether he has collected them or not.

SECTION 6.—ACCOUNTS, &c.

INSTRUCTION No. 6. The form of the account which postmasters are required to render of all emoluments received by them from box-rent, branch offices and otherwise, together with the form of the accompanying affidavit, will be found in Chapter XXIII, Sections 275 and 276, of the Regulations of 1859.

Postmasters will observe that, by the present law, they are moreover required to forward, with their quarterly accounts, a sworn statement that such quarterly accounts exhibit truly and faithfully the entire receipts collected at their respective offices, and the entire sum which could have been by the diligence collected thereat, and that the credits claimed are just and true, as they verily believe.

No change whatever in the compensation of postmasters is made by the following clause of Section 6 of the new law, viz: "And no postmaster shall hereafter, under any pretence whatever, have or receive, or retain for himself, in the aggregate, more than the amount of his salary." By the term "salary," here used, it is to be understood that the entire compensation which each postmaster receives from his commissions, emoluments and allowances, as established by previous enactments.

[Sections 7 and 8 relate to Dead Letters, Advertisements, &c. The Instructions on these subjects are verily quite extensive, and we must, for the present, refer the reader to the official plan, sheet, &c.]

SECTION 11.—LETTER CARRIERS.
INSTRUCTION No. 11. Under this section special regulations will be adopted applicable to the several offices where the delivery system shall from time to time be introduced. Postmasters will exercise the greatest possible care in selecting and nominating letter carriers. They must be men of good moral character and good physical ability, of unquestionable integrity, and interested themselves in the service. The salary of each will be regulated by his experience, ability and diligence, beginning at a low sum, with advancement from time to time according to merit. Postmasters in nominating carriers will state their age, previous occupation, and any other fact touching the question of their fitness. Only those candidates should be recommended who desire to continue permanently in the duties of the office. It is not intended to remove carriers except for cause of unfitness, and to reward a delinquent by promotion in the postal service. Delivery districts and routes shall be arranged by the postmaster as to a full employment to the carriers with the least loss of time in the delivery and collection of letters. The amount of local mail matter to be carried by each carrier shall be fixed by the postmaster, and the movement of the carriers. Some dress or badge should be adopted by which the public will readily recognize them.

Sec. 14. And be it further enacted, That all expenses for the letter-carriers, branch offices, and receiving boxes, or accident thereto, shall be entered and reported in a separate account from the ordinary postal expenses of such post office, and shall be shown in comparison with the proceeds of the postage on local mail matter at each office, in order that the Postmaster General may be guided in the expenditures for that branch of the postal service by the amount derived therefrom; and all such expenses shall be paid out of the income of the post office at the district in which they are incurred.

INSTRUCTION No. 14. Each postmaster, where

the letter-carrier system is or shall be established, will keep an account and make quarterly report of the expenses incident thereto under the following heads:

1. Compensation of carriers.
2. Expense of branch offices.
3. Cost of receiving boxes.
4. Expense of repairs.
5. Cost of local transportation.
6. Miscellaneous expenses.

He shall also exhibit quarterly the income derived from local postage.

NOTE.—As this section provides that the expenses of the system of free delivery shall be paid out of the income of the post office of the district in which they are incurred, it is important that the department should be early advised as to the number and compensation of letter-carriers and collectors at all offices where they are now employed. Postmasters will therefore send to the Appointment Office at the earliest practicable moment after the receipt of these instructions a full statement of the number and compensation of each, as well as all other information in their possession relating to this subject, the better to enable the Postmaster General to determine at what offices the system shall be continued, and to fix the amount of salary of carriers.

SECTION 18.—PREPAYMENT OF PRINTED MATTER.

INSTRUCTION No. 18.—No newspaper or magazine, not prepaid at the mailing office, can be delivered under this law until the postage has been paid for at least one quarter, unless the party addressed shall pay on each such paper or magazine the rate required on transient matter by section 34 of this law. If the quarterly postage shall be paid at any other time than the beginning of a quarter, that is to say, on the first day of January, April, July and October, it must be paid to the end of the next following quarter; thus, if the subscription commences from the 1st of August, payment must be made to the 31st of December. Not more than one year's postage can be collected in advance. If postmasters deliver any mail matter without first collecting the postage thereon, they must immediately charge themselves with the amount, and report it as paid in their quarterly account. Any failure to do this will be cause for removal.

SECTION 22.—UNIFORM LETTER POSTAGE RATES.

INSTRUCTION No. 22. On and after July 1, 1863, the single letter rate of postage will be three cents throughout the United States. The Pacific rate of ten cents is abolished.

An additional rate of three cents is required for each additional half ounce or fraction. It must be prepaid in all cases, subject to the exceptions mentioned in section 27.

SECTION 23.—LOCAL OR DRUP LETTERS.

INSTRUCTION No. 23. On and after July 1, 1863, mail letters, or local letters, shall be delivered without any charge. All local letters, however, are chargeable with two cents postage, to be prepaid by stamps in all cases. But no fee is to be paid to the carriers, thereon.

SECTION 26.

And be it further enacted, That if any matter on which by law the postage is required to be prepaid, or the postage shall reach its destination without such prepayment, double the regular rate shall be charged and collected on delivery.

INSTRUCTION No. 26. Postmasters will give particular attention to this section. It applies to all letters not prepaid by stamps, except soldiers' and naval letters, and all printed matter except that sent to regular subscribers, and to all miscellaneous mail matter mentioned in third class of section 20. If postage is not prepaid the unpaid postage will be charged as double rate.

SECTION 27.—SOLDIERS' AND NAVAL LETTERS.

INSTRUCTION No. 27. The following regulations are in force, from July 1, 1863, under this section:

1. Letters written by commissioned officers in the military or naval service cannot be certified as soldiers' or naval letters.
2. Letters written by non-commissioned officers and privates in the military service, or in the naval service, (embracing the marine corps), on which this postage is not prepaid by stamps, (except soldiers' and naval letters), or the office in command of his attachment, or of the post, or by a surgeon or chaplain at an hospital. In the navy or marine corps by the officer in command of the vessel, or by a chaplain or surgeon on board, or by the officer commanding a detachment of marines on shore.
3. If any military or naval letter not thus duly certified shall be deposited at any post office for mailing, they shall nevertheless be mailed, but rated up with double postage to be collected on delivery, as in other cases of unpaid letters.
4. This law requires prepayment of postage on all ordinary letters by stamps, as heretofore; but this section intends, and postmasters are instructed, to use a liberal discretion in forwarding unpaid letters deposited for mailing where there is any reason to believe that such failure to prepay was the result of accident, ignorance, or any other cause than design, charging them with double rates of postage, to be collected on delivery. The former practice of rating to the party addressed is abolished.

In all cases where the failure to prepay postage on letters of civilians, when the same are certified or mailed, is evidently intentional, such letters should be forwarded with other "non-mailable" letters to the Dead Letter Office.

SECTION 30.

And be it further enacted, That all letters directed to any person not found at the office addressed may be forwarded to any other office where he may be found, with additional charge of postage therefor.

INSTRUCTION No. 30. In all cases where the party addressed leaves directions for the forwarding of his letters to another office, and in all cases where the postmaster has knowledge that they will reach him if forwarded to another office, (and no contrary directions have been given), such letters should be immediately forwarded, charged with additional postage at the prepaid rate.

SECTION 32.—REGISTERED LETTERS.

[Instruction 32 respect registered letters is given in much detail. It establishes 29 cents as the regular fee, in lieu of 5 cents the present rate. Postmasters will be allowed 50 per cent on the amount of registration fees received at their several offices.]

SECTION 33 AND 34.—PRINTED MATTER, TRANSPORT DO., AND CIRCULARS.

INSTRUCTION No. 34. By sections 33 and 34 of this law the rate of postage on all transient matter and upon all mailable matter, except letters and regular papers and periodicals, is fixed by the weight of the package, (excepting circulars). This standard weight is fixed at four ounces, and passes at the rate of two cents, an extra rate of two cents being added for each additional weight or fraction of it. Double this rate (that is four cents) is charged for books by the same standard of weight. Three circulars or any less number, in one unsealed envelope to one address, pass at the same rate of two cents. Seals, engravings, and the other miscellaneous articles mentioned in the third class of section 20 of this law, are also charged at the same rate of two cents for each four ounces, or fraction of it sent to one address. These postage charges must in all cases be prepaid by stamps. No extra charge is made, as heretofore, for any business card or address printed on the wrapper. (See also No. 38, last clause.)

SECTION 38.—ROUTE AGENTS TO DELIVER NEWSPAPERS, &c.

INSTRUCTION No. 38. Postmasters in cities and large towns will particularly observe the provisions of this section. Large additions to the postal revenue may be made by securing to the mail car the daily transportation of newspapers and periodicals now carried by expressmen. Ample power is conferred by this section to secure that result.

Route agents will receive and deliver such packages with care and promptitude whenever notified that arrangements have been made by the postmaster. Postmasters in cities from which such packages are sent will inquire and report to the department whether publishers and news agents will not transfer such packages to the care of the route agents, and at what rates, reporting the facts, with their recommendation, to the Postmaster General.

Route agents will use every exertion in aid of this purpose.

SECTION 40.

And be it further enacted, That postmasters, at the office of delivery, are authorized, and it shall be their duty, to remove the wrappers and envelopes from printed and other matter not charged with letter postage, nor lawfully franked, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is upon, or connected with, any such printed matter or such package any matter or thing which would authorize or require the charge of a higher rate of postage thereon.

INSTRUCTION No. 40. If postmasters cannot make this examination without destroying the wrapper, they will rate the package with letter postage, and collect the same on delivery.

SECTION 44.

And be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force and take effect from and after the thirtieth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-three.

INSTRUCTION No. 44. From and after the 1st July 1863, postmasters are expected to conform to the requirements of this law.

SECTION 45.—REPEALING CLAUSE.

INSTRUCTION No. 45.—This section repeals all former postal laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act. Many of the old regulations are in consequence abolished, but such portions of former instructions as are not in conflict with the new law or regulations will still remain in force.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

[The schedules of postage rates on transient and miscellaneous matter, also on books, unsealed circulars, and the quarterly rates on regular newspapers and periodicals, are also embraced in the new instructions, and will be given in the Mail by the time the new law goes into effect, namely, July 1st 1863.]

The Lost Found.

There has just come to light in Norwich, Conn., one of those remarkable cases of coincidence which we think is worth recording.

Just eighteen years ago, there was received at the Norwich post office a letter which had been mailed in Vernon, Conn., purporting to contain one hundred dollars. This letter was addressed to Mrs. Walker, and was delivered by the postmaster (Enoch C. Chapman) to Horace Walker, son of the lady to whom it was addressed; but, on opening the letter, it was found not to contain the money. The case was not then, nor has it since been cleared up; but there was much ill-feeling created, and all the usual accusations of carelessness, possible dishonesty, &c., passed between the parties.—Feuds were created which had never been settled for all of this long period of eighteen years.

The second chapter in this mysterious and perplexing affair was opened a few days since. It was in this wise: A stranger called on Mr. Enoch F. Chapman, and asked him if his name was Enoch Chapman, who was postmaster here about eighteen years ago. Mr. C. said it was not him but his father, who then held that office; whereupon the stranger stated that a brother of his had stolen a one hundred dollar bill from a letter, on its way from Vernon to Norwich. This letter, he said, was addressed to Mrs. Walker, and also that Mr. C. was postmaster at the time, giving many other particulars. This brother had early enlisted in the army. He joined the — regiment, New York State Militia, at Hornsville, N. Y., was wounded at the battle of Antietam, and did not then expect to live very long. He had therefore entrusted this brother with the money, and requested him to go at once to Norwich, Conn., and find the ex-postmaster, and give him this \$100 bill, which the stranger now proceeded to take from his pocket, requesting Mr. Chapman to go at once to Mrs. W. and hand her the same, and to assure her of his (the unknown culprit's) sincere repentance, and to say to her, also, that nothing but pecuniary inability precluded him from sending the interest.

Mr. C. proceeded at once to the house of Mrs. W., and handed her the \$100, and took her receipt in full of all demands, pecuniary and otherwise.—The old lady now expresses herself as perfectly satisfied, and in fact glad that she had not received the money before, as it would have been spent long ago but now, she says, it comes just in play, and that she considers it so much clear gain.

The stranger would answer no questions as to his name or residence, and he left town on the very instant of his obtaining the promise from the young Mr. C. that his brother's request should be strictly complied with.

A YOUNG OFFENDER.—A girl only seventeen years of age, daughter of the postmaster at Sandwich, England, was lately arrested, charged with extensive and unprovoked larceny. Rings, earrings, gold chains, a silver crucifix, and various other articles of value, which had been lost in transmission through the mails, were found in her possession, and the accused was remanded for trial.

Letters "Beyond the Lines."

The *National Intelligencer* publishes the following:—

RULES FOR LETTERS GOING SOUTH.—In order to secure the transmission of letters across the lines, the following rules, established by order of Gen. Dix, must be complied with:

1. No letter must exceed one page of a letter sheet, or relate to other than purely domestic matters.
2. Every letter must be signed by the writer's name in full.
3. All letters must be sent with five cents postage enclosed if to go to Richmond, and ten cents if beyond.
4. All letters must be enclosed to the Commanding General of the Department of Virginia, at Fortress Monroe. No letter sent to any other address will be forwarded.

All letters sent to Fortress Monroe without a strict compliance with these rules, except for prisoners of war, will be transmitted to the Dead Letter Office.

In reply to some inquiries as to the above rules, Gen. Dix writes us as follows:—"The rules adopted in relation to the transmission of letters across the lines are not to be considered as authorizing correspondence, and it is not to be inferred that all letters complying with those rules will be forwarded. It is entirely discretionary with the commanding officer here, (Fortress Monroe), and there may be times and circumstances which will render all correspondence inexpedient except with prisoners of war. The published memoranda are only intended to give notice that no letters of any description will be forwarded unless certain rules were complied with." All such letters should be left unsealed, of course, or the authorities will most assuredly open them (under the war power) before transmitting them to Rebel-land.

Curiosities of the Dead Letter Office.

We last month published an article giving some statistical and other details in regard to the Dead Letter Office at Washington. Below will be found a few items gathered from the experience of a gentleman connected with that branch of the service.

THE INEVITABLE P. S.—Letters are daily examined in the Dead Letter Office, for the purpose of selecting those with valuable enclosures. A clerk of inquiring mind, who had that duty to perform one day last week, placed by themselves all letters written by females, and at his leisure ascertained that there were not very far out of 6,500, without a P. S., and some contained three. The 375 were written, no doubt, by strong-minded women.

Here are some specimens of the thousand-and-one ways in which correspondents terminate their letters:

- Blots excuse, mistakes forgive—
Think of the writer as long as you live.
- "MARRIA."
- "If I may trust betray,
I shall forever die."
- "Good bye."
- "I still remain the same old sixpence, and yours at that,"
LYMA."
- "The grass grows green under the stump—
You are a great big sugar lump."
"Believe me, as ever, your loving friend,
"ASAH, JR."
- "You are the rose of the mountain.
And the lily of the West;
You are the only companion—
You are the one I love best."
"Don't let any one see this."
"THE ROSE IS SWEET,
The lily is blue,
And so are you."
T. M."
- "If you conclude to save my life, send me your heart direct."
MOLLIE."
- "Ioping that when we meet again, we may meet like angels in heaven."
"Your affectionate
LOVER."
- "Excuse my way of spelling, for you now me."
"Your friend,
SAM."
- "Adieu, and may the benediction of these covering heavens fall on thy head like lead."
"Yours respectfully, au revoir,
"Box 936, City."
- "I know that nothing is improbable in these times, since Tom Thumb has departed the single life."
"Truly your friend,
J."
- "Write to me as soon as possible, if not sooner."
"I remain yours truly,
DELLIA."
- "David, if you don't get my letters, I don't want you to think I don't write to you." A kiss and then I will leave you for this time. I love you as I love my own life. I remain your true lover until death. From
MART."
- "No one to love—none to care—
None to respond to this heart's tenderness.
Sad is my heart—joy is unknown,
For in my sorrow I'm weeping alone."
LIL."
- "My dearest girl, just here in mind
A constant friend is hard to find;
Give my respects to all,
No more this time. Yrs,
MART."
- "From your Rose. I wish that you was a coming home now, you would get some tight hugs."
E."

Letter Address.

To Long John.
Ho's my cousin you know;
I'm very desirous this letter should go.
He lives in East Unity,
That session town,
And be with the rest is a Copperhead clown."

Stamp Collection.

We noticed last month the appearance of a new magazine in England, devoted exclusively to the subject of postage stamps, the rage for the collection of which seems to be even more violent in Europe than in this country. We have since received from the publishers their advertisement, which will be found in another column, and several copies of this odd publication, and shall try to find space for an extract or two in a future number. The following amusing notice, from the London *Saturday Review*, will give an idea of the character of the work:

THE POSTAGE-STAMP MANIA.—Any one who would want a half-hour's amusing reading cannot do better than buy the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*. He will find himself in a completely new world. The first thing that will strike him is that these poor enthusiasts are stimulated quite as much by a thirst for gain as a thirst for information. At their Stamp Exchange, "buying, selling and exchanging were carried on with spirit and pleasurable excitement, all ranks (we have seen one of Her Majesty's Ministry there) and all ages taking part in the traffic." Will some independent member ask Lord Palmerston some night who this stamp-hunting Minister is? Can it be Earl Russell, getting up a knowledge of foreign States with a view to despatches during the recess—or Mr. Gladstone, naturally drawn to a subject that offers a number of different heads for consideration? "The variation in prices," continues the writer, "was noteworthy. We have seen a set of the Nevis stamps pass from hand to hand, for four, six and eight shillings successively, and even at this last price bought to sell again at a profit." A speculator from Clifton wishes to know where to procure a Nicaraguan stamp, and the feeling hat cautious editor replies, "We sympathize with him." Another, who has been shamefully taken in for they are not all honest these people, and we gather that there is a good deal of forgery among them—is told that his stamp is not genuine Argentine, "the cap of liberty is wanting." Then there are nearly four columns of advertisements. One firm call themselves "dealers in obsolete stamps;" another "buys and sells collections;" a third offers French two-centime and Maltese half-penny stamps at the low price of twopence each. Some foreign stamps, however, cannot be got in this way, and then the collector's ingenuity is taxed. "We know a zealous collector, residing in a provincial town, who, wishing to procure a quantity of the tens to take back to England for exchanging, wrote a letter to himself every day, dropped it into the letter box unpaid, and received it duly ornamented by the coveted ten-centime a penny."

BE FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS.—Recent investigations lead to the belief that too many cases postmasters are not sufficiently strict in regard to the small cash collections of which all post offices continue to have more or less, notwithstanding our present system of general prepayment. We refer more particularly to trifling sums received on foreign newspapers and pamphlets, and on domestic printed matter getting into the mail unpaid, undercharged, &c. The amount of it may be small, but in the aggregate it is by no means insignificant. In some instances post masters have so little personal knowledge of how things are going, and the delivery clerks leaving the control of the accounts to their employer, the Department is often the loser without any really fraudulent design. But as there is no excuse for these delinquencies, the alleged absence of such motives will not avail at headquarters. Some directions on this subject will be found in sec. 167 of the Regulations.

FORWARDED LETTERS.—The 30th section of the new Postal Act, as published in the *Mail* for April, provides that "all letters directed to any person not found at the office addressed, may be forwarded to any other office where he may be found, without additional charge of postage therefor." Such was the intention of the Post Master General and the Committee, and the section was so drawn, but on an examination of the Bill as passed, it was found that the important word "without," probably in the engrossment of the Bill, had been shorn of its last syllable, by which error the above class of letters will have to be charged extra postage as heretofore—that is, every letter which in any case is required to be forwarded, the original address having been strictly followed. Where a letter is out of its course, however, from an error in any post office, such as misreading the original postage covers the entire transportation.

The new instructions will of course settle all points which may have been misunderstood from any cause.

WANTED HIS TITLE.—A Government Officer had a letter returned to him a short time ago, from the "Dead Letter" office—the address corresponding with the signature. The indignant officer, however, informed the Department by note, "That he had letters passing constantly through the Washington P. O. addressing him by his title—and that he ought to be well known; and doubtless the title had been omitted in this case, to gratify, without any provocation, the spite of some impertinent and contemptible puppy—whoever he may be." The valiant Officer should in future sign his name with all the titles—to prevent a recurrence of such a deplorable mistake.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, JUNE, 1863.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmaster General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR
Postmaster-General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

CHANGE IN FOREIGN RATES.—It will be observed that the single half ounce rate of letter postage on letters to or from the Republic of Costa Rica, has been reduced from 20 to 10 cts., 10 cts. additional to be collected on the next half ounce or fraction thereof.

This constitutes the only change in the foreign postage table for the present month.

THE LATEST INSTRUCTIONS.—On our first page will be found the most important of the official instructions just issued by the Postmaster General, explanatory of the various sections of the late law of Congress, which will be in force from and after the 30th of the present month.

Rule for Rating Letters to Great Britain, &c.

The attention of postmasters is particularly called to the mode of rating postage on letters exchanged in the mails between this country and the United Kingdom, which differs essentially from the United States domestic scale, when the weight of the packet or letter exceeds one ounce.

The scale of progression adopted for letters exchanged with the United Kingdom is as follows, viz: One rate for a single letter not exceeding ½ oz. in weight.

Two rates when over ½, but not exceeding 1 ounce.
Four rates when over 1, but not exceeding 3 ounces.

Six rates when over 3, but not exceeding 5 ounces, and so on, charging two additional rates for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

In no case should 3, 5 or 7 rates be collected upon a letter or packet addressed to the United Kingdom, the proper charges being either 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 rates, &c., according to weight.

Notwithstanding the explicit instructions of the Department on this subject, it is found that many postmasters are in the practice of charging postage upon letters and packets for the United Kingdom according to our domestic scale, (viz. one rate for each half-ounce or fraction of half an ounce), and thus insufficient amounts of postage are frequently prepaid, which are entirely lost to the sender, as no account is taken of short payments of postage.

RATES OF POSTAGE TO COSTA RICA.—The following order has been issued by the Postmaster General, viz:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, May 18, 1863.

Pursuant to authority vested in the Postmaster General, and by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States, (which advice and consent more fully appear by an instrument of writing this day filed in the Department), and with the view to establish better postal arrangements between the United States and the Republic of Costa Rica, the Government of Costa Rica having agreed, on its part, to reduce the local postage charges in that country to one-half the rates hitherto levied upon letters to and from the United States:

It is hereby ordered, That on and after the first of June, 1863, the postage to be levied and collected in the United States on each letter or parcel, not exceeding half an ounce (avoirdupois) in weight, addressed to or received from Costa Rica, shall be 10 cents, an additional rate of 10 cents to be charged for each additional weight of half an ounce, or of less than half an ounce.

And the postage to be levied and collected in the United States on newspapers, sealed circulars, and other kinds of printed matter addressed to or received from Costa Rica, shall be two cents on each newspaper or unsealed circular, and one cent an ounce, or fraction of an ounce, on pamphlets, periodicals, books, and other kinds of printed papers; Provided, That no book, bound or unbound, weighing over two pounds (avoirdupois) shall be admitted in the mails at less than full letter rate of postage as hereinbefore prescribed; And provided further, That newspapers and printed matter of every kind shall be enclosed in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends, and be subject in all respects to the restrictions imposed by the laws and regulations of the Post Office Department.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

The postage stamps in use by the Canadian Post Office Department, as also those of Nova Scotia, are engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Company, in New York. These stamps, as works of art, are acknowledged by connoisseurs of postage stamps, to be superior, in design and execution, to anything of the kind produced elsewhere.

Important Postal Changes.

The Postmaster General, on the recommendation of Postmaster Wakeman, has ordered some very important changes in the postal arrangements of Manhattan Island.

It may not be generally known that at present there are no less than eight post offices, including that located in Nassau street, all within the limits of the city proper. It is proposed, and in fact has been decided upon, to discontinue some of these offices on the 30th inst., namely, Yorkville, Harlem, Harsenville, Manhattanville, Washington Heights, King's Bridge, and King's Bridge Park, and to extend the system of Station and letter carriers over the territory formerly supplied by the above offices, by establishing a Station at each of the localities thus made vacant. The distance over which the Carrier System will thus be extended, is about 13 miles from the Battery, or the entire length and breadth of Manhattan Island, and in fact embracing the whole county of New York.

Some of the advantages of these important improvements are, a uniform free letter delivery throughout the entire city limits, under the new law, excepting perhaps in certain sparsely populated districts, in which cases letters will be called for at the proper Station, for the present, more frequent deliveries above 55th street,—the preventing delay to correspondence occasioned by the present process of regularly post billing, mailing and remailing letters now sent to and from the post office soon to be abolished. Instead of awaiting the arrival and departure of regular mails, the citizens of Yorkville, Harlem, &c., can rely upon their local letters being more frequently and promptly forwarded by the means stated; and all letters written on Manhattan Island, to be sent from one point to another, become drop letters, and as such, are chargeable with a postage of 2 cents each instead of 3.

Much advantage will also be gained to local correspondence, by a direct exchange of mails between the several up town Stations, without passing through the post office.

It should not be forgotten that after the 31st of June, all "drop" or local letters must be prepaid by stamps, at two cents the single half ounce rate, and two cents for each additional half ounce or fraction thereof. This of course applies to all post offices throughout the country.

By the late law, authority is given to post masters in large cities to contract with publishers for the delivery by carriers, of newspapers, periodicals or circulars not coming through the mails, and of the denomination of local matter. The law also provides for the delivery by the same means, when so ordered by the Postmaster General, of small packets other than letters or papers, to be paid by stamps at the rate of two cents for each four ounces, or fraction thereof.

COLLECTIONS IN COIN.—It may be of service to some postmasters, to explain the plan adopted in the New York office in carrying out the recent Order to collect postage on unpaid foreign letters, in coin or its equivalent.

Letter stamps are prepared, with changeable figures, with which all such letters for this delivery are rated, as soon as they arrive by steamer; the premium on silver at that time being adopted as a basis. Thus on a letter from Great Britain 32 cts. would be stamped, if the coin then ruled at 33 per cent. No matter when the letter is called for, the rate stamped must be paid, unless the gold or silver is offered, when of course only the 24 cts. can be demanded if the letter weighs a single rate only. This has been the practice up to the 1st inst., in the New York office, respecting letters for delivery here, as before stated; but by order of the Department it was on the 1st inst. extended to all such foreign letters passing through for other offices. We mention this in order that distant postmasters may understand the new rating, and collect accordingly. The arrangement will no doubt relieve them of some trouble.

Similar instructions have also been given to the postmasters of Philadelphia, Boston, Portland, Detroit, Chicago and San Francisco, there being the regular United States Exchange Offices for foreign mails.

DISTRIBUTION OFFICES.—The Postmaster General has ordered the discontinuance of the Distribution features of the Post Offices at Toledo and Columbus, Ohio, and Dubuque, Iowa.

The subject of distribution, generally, its advantages and disadvantages, and whether the interests of the service and the public, would not on the whole, be subserved by dispensing with distribution at other points, has been for some time under consideration. The delay of correspondence owing to a want of geographical knowledge or its proper application in forwarding letters requiring to be re-mailed, and the extra expense to the Department, arising from double and sometimes treble commissions on this class of matter, are among the principal objections to this system.

ARREST OF A LETTER CARRIER.—Thomas Van Cott, a letter carrier attached to station D, New York Post Office, was arrested on the 21st ult. on a charge of purloining letters from the mails. Several losses—some of them quite serious—having been reported, of letters addressed to parties on the route of another carrier at the same station, suspicion was attracted to the latter, and steps taken for his detection; but the result proved his entire innocence, and at the same time furnished strong evidence of the guilt of Van Cott, who occupied a seat at the sorting desk next to the carrier on whose route the losses had taken place, and who doubtless availed himself of the opportunity thus offered to appropriate letters with apparent safety to himself. Money abstracted from one of these letters was found on his person. He was examined before U. S. Commissioner Osborne, and held to bail in \$5000 to await the action of the Grand Jury.

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing.

A few months ago, several of the students in one of our Theological Seminaries were somewhat surprised, and a good deal annoyed, at the non-arrival of the usual supply of the roof of all evil, which should have reached them by mail, and which had heretofore never failed to arrive in due time. On writing to their friends to ascertain the cause of this "unremitting kindness," the young men discovered that the missing money had all been duly mailed to their several addresses, and that its non-arrival must be attributed to some other cause than the neglect of their parents and guardians. Some of the unlucky students brought the story of their loss to the attention of the Special Agent, who, on inquiry, found that all letters addressed to the Seminary were placed in one box at the post office, whence they were delivered every day to some one of the students, who called, each in his turn, to receive them. Finding, however, that one of these gentlemen was in the habit (having daily business down town) of calling rather often than the others, it was suggested that perhaps it was not impossible that he might have lost (it would have been scarcely polite to use a stronger expression in regard to an embryo clergyman) the letters.—But this view of the case, the losers declared, was impossible—the young man's character was irreproachable, etc. No, the trouble was undoubtedly in the post office, not among the innocent flock of students—and the officer was requested to detect the guilty clerk forthwith. This, however, he failed to do.

Meanwhile the losses continued—drafts and checks enclosed in letters to the students were presented at the banks and paid on forged endorsements; the attention of many of the young theologians was painfully distracted from the study of Divinity by the more urgent necessity for the study of "pecuniary ways and means; and finally the Postmaster General was appealed to, in a letter written by one of the sufferers, to take some measures to "put a stop to the plundering of the mails in the New York post office." This grave charge, of course, required an immediate investigation; and the officer took such measures as resulted in the detection of a candidate for the ministry named Geo. C. D. S. Gauthier, as the perpetrator of all the robberies. He denied his guilt stoutly at first, but afterwards made a full confession—acknowledging the commission of all the thefts and of no less than four forgeries. When arrested, he had just returned from instructing a Sunday school class, and was about going forth to assist, as usual, in the services of the church! His room at the Seminary was tastefully furnished, (at the expense of kind but mistaken benefactors), and his library well stocked with books. On searching his desk, however, the most ample evidence of his disgusting hypocrisy was discovered; for there—mingled with theological books and his own written sermons—were manuscript songs and prose, and books and pictures of the most obscene description, while his diary was filled with pious remarks and virtuous sentiments!

Of course the losses of the students' letters ceased at once, and an ample apology was made for the unfounded charge they had preferred, while Mr. G. has "received a call" to exercise his talents in quite a different field. The "arrangements" which led finally to the detection of this bad specimen of humanity, were conducted by Mr. J. Gayler, of the Special Agent's Department.

HOW TO WRITE TO SOLDIERS.—At a complimentary dinner recently given to Brigade Surgeon J. B. WUTCORP, at his home in Brooklyn, Conn., the Doctor, in responding to a toast, gave some information of the results of his observation and experience to the hospitals.

"The soldiers were much more comfortably cared for than was supposed at home. He urged that the friends of the soldiers write to them often, and always in a cheerful vein. None but those who had seen the disconsolate appearance of the soldiers after receiving a 'blue' letter from home could appreciate the benefit of a hopeful epistle from the dear ones at home. He would urgently impress this fact upon the people. The soldiers are in good spirits, and are willing to fight for their country, but do not want their hearts sickened by doleful letters from home."

These sensible suggestions of the Doctor, if generally followed, would have a wonderfully beneficial effect upon our troops. To those engaged in the active duties of a soldier's life, a cheerful letter is sure to be the most welcome of blessings—while it is not difficult to imagine that such a letter, gladdening the heart of a sick or wounded hero in hospital, may prove more effectual in arresting the uplifted hand of death than all the drugs of the apothecary. Let all, then, who have friends in the army, see to it that words of hope and encouragement shall reach them as often as possible. And perhaps the soldiers, too, need reminding that there are those at home whose hearts, at the first tidings of a battle, are filled with a cruel anxiety, which only a letter from the absent husband, brother or son can relieve.

Sec. 11, new law, is the first legal recognition in the postal laws of this country, if we mistake not, of the wholesome principle of rewards for "diligence, fidelity and experience" of those employed in the mail service. It applies to letter carriers. We wish it could be extended to all classes of public employees, especially in the postal service. The people would be greatly the gainers we have no doubt.

A meeting of Special Agents of the Post Office Department, convened at the Astor House in this city on Monday last, the 1st inst. Quite a number of these officers from the Middle and Western, and South Western States, were in attendance. The conference was held by direction of the Post Master General, its objects having sole reference to the matters connected with the efficiency and improvement of the mail service.

The Paris Convention.

The first news from the Postal Convention which convened in the French capital on the 11th ult., is, contained in a letter from a Paris correspondent of the N. Y. Herald, under date of May 15th. Of course the delegates had hardly got fairly at work, but the report nevertheless is important as furnishing some of the topics which are under discussion. We quote from this correspondence the following:

"An International Postal Convention, to consider matters of interest to people all over the world who write and receive letters, is now in session in Paris. The idea of this Convention originated with the Hon. John A. Kasson, formerly Assistant Postmaster General, and was partially developed in a circular sent by Mr. Seward to the governments of Europe and America in August last. Other communications, subsequently made by Mr. Blair, resulted in the meeting of the Convention here on Monday last, and they have already held three sessions, at which various interesting matters have been discussed. The following governments are represented:—Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, United States, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, Sandwich Islands, Switzerland and the Hanseatic cities. Among the topics proposed for an attempted agreement between the different governments are the following:—

1. A uniform standard weight for the single rate of written correspondence.
2. A uniform standard for adjusting postal rates on printed correspondence exchanged.
3. Uniformity of route to destination by whatever route of intermediate transit.
4. Uniform conditions of prepayment, whether compulsory or optional; or, if optional, a double rate when not prepaid.
5. A uniform scale for increase of rates.
6. Whether each country may collect and retain the postage collected by it, whether compulsory or optionally prepaid, or remaining unpaid, thus avoiding accounts except for intermediate and postal charges.
7. Transit postal charges overlaid, by intermediate countries, to be established on a uniform basis, and accounted for by the office, by the despatching country, on matter transmitted in closed bags or otherwise.
8. The same proposition for *pecaun* transit in closed bags or otherwise.
9. The disposition to be made of all letters not delivered in the country of destination.
10. A uniform international system for the registration of letters and postage charges therefor.
11. Classification of printed matter which may be transmitted by mail, and the rights reserved by each country in respect thereto.
12. The rights reserved by each country in respect to the route of transit of correspondence despatched by it.
13. The practicability of an international limited money order system.
14. Such other topics of postal importance as may be offered to the consideration of the conference by either national post department.

One of the most important changes which Mr. Kasson, the representative of our government in this convention, is endeavoring to bring about, is a uniformity of weight for single letters, by which much confusion and loss would be avoided. Now the French government allows 7½ grammes, or about a quarter of an ounce, while England permits half an ounce. Mr. Kasson proposes a compromise of twelve grammes, but will accept of a uniform weight for a single letter all over the world. Another matter which is occupying his attention is newspaper postage. Now newspapers sent from the United States here are required to be each prepaid twice, at the rate of two cents there, and upon their arrival in France are each taxed either an additional postage of thirty centimes, or about six cents, which makes the postage on the daily New York Herald received in Paris, amount to the snug sum of twenty-nine dollars and twenty cents a year.—Mr. Kasson's proposition in this matter is to reduce the postage to three or four cents, and make it all payable in the United States.

Many other topics of interest in connection with postal matters will come up in the subsequent meetings of the convention, to which the French Post Office Department is rendering every assistance, and it is probable that some very satisfactory results will grow out of this meeting.

Duties of Mail Carriers.

SIR—Is a mail carrier obliged to take the mail from the post office, and bring it to the office, or must a postmaster carry the mail bag to the middle of the street, and also to go there and get the mail?

A mail carrier has no right to behave as above intimated; and we think such cases must be very rare, perhaps too rare to warrant any argument or even comment on the subject. It is clearly the duty of such carriers to deliver the mail at and take it from the post office. And any contractor who should refuse to do this on any cause, would insure a fine if reported to the Inspection Office. On the other hand post masters and their clerks should manifest a spirit of accommodation, by handing out the mail when called for at the door of the post office, especially when it is inconvenient for the carrier or driver to receive it outside the office.

WANTED, AN OWNER.—The statement in the paper recently in regard to the finding of five one thousand dollar Treasury notes, greenbacks, by an Irish girl, while engaged in picking over the waste paper in one of the paper mills at Lenox, Mass., is substantially true. At least a number of such notes of the denomination stated, were found in the manner described.

At first it was thought to have been a loss through the post office, much of the waste paper in such mills being obtained from such sources. An examination of the complaint books of the Department, however, failed to bring to light any one loss of actual cash, agreeing with, or approaching the amount reported found. Great secrecy is said to have been observed by the lucky finder and her advisers, and it is reported that an envelope which contained the treasure, was at once destroyed. The inference is, therefore, that it contained writing of some kind which might have furnished a clue to the rightful owner.

A certain post office Agent visited her officially, but came away about as wise as before. Meantime Bridget thinks this a pretty good country.

LOCK BOXES.—The new postal law (Sec. 3,) provides that "no mail matter shall be delivered by the postmaster until the postage due thereon shall have been paid." A strict compliance with this requirement would seem to involve the necessity of abolishing the system of "lock-boxes," the lessees of which have heretofore been in the habit of removing their mail matter therefrom, leaving the postage due to be charged against them by the postmaster. Several inquiries having reached us as to whether some plan could not be adopted by which the law might be complied with, and the convenient lock-boxes still retained, we have written to the Department on the subject, suggesting that persons using such boxes be allowed to deposit with the postmaster a sufficient sum in advance, to cover the postage due on their mail matter. We have received a reply which satisfies us that the Department will not object to the adoption of such a plan, provided that care is taken by postmasters that the deposit is duly renewed as soon as exhausted. Those who have written us in regard to the matter may therefore consider themselves authorized to put the deposit system in operation.

Lady Officials.

MR. EDITOR.—Why have we "female postmasters" been twice omitted in your list of post office appointments and changes? It cannot be by the order or sanction of our gallant Chief at Washington, Judge Blair. Such an idea is inconsistent with his complimentary allusions, in his speech at the late dedication of a great post office. He then said of the ladies:

"They are great letter-writers, my friends.—I have had a great many letters from them in my time, and I know of none that I more willingly receive or joyfully peruse. It is a well recommended of my friend, that in this case he has provided for the comfort of the fair correspondents, some of whom I see here on this occasion."

Nor can the fault have been that of our worthy First Assistant; for he too, if I read the Mail aright, has recently given the best evidence in the world of his respect for, and high appreciation of the "fairer sex." Will you please explain, then, why we have been thus "left out in the cold?"

As it seems we are, in effect, charged with "conduct unbecoming a gentleman," in the matter of this important omission, perhaps a court martial ought to be convened. We don't believe that if the investigation should embrace the entire Department, the "findings" would bring to light a single gentleman wanting in true gallantry. Let us file our brief answer.

The appointments were all furnished us each month; but, in the case of the first omission, the ladies got knocked into "pi," and the printer had lost the copy; and the next time, we were compelled to leave out their names as a matter of convenience to that same printer.

The slight did not pass unnoticed, however, as will be seen by the above copy of a note received from one of the un-"erring sisters."

By reference to the proper column, it will be seen that we have "mended the honorable"—as a noted politician used to say—by giving all the appointments which had before been omitted.

AN UNFORTUNATE POST OFFICE.—The post office at Kingston, N. Y., was entered by burglars on the night of the 25th ult., and most of the letters broken open, but left on the premises.—They appear to have contained but a small amount of available funds. The safe was blown open, and 30 or 40 dollars worth of postage stamps abstracted, and a few dollars in silver. It is thought to have been unfortunate that the thieves did not begin with the safe, as the sight of so much silver coin these times, would probably have alarmed them, and thus saved the letters!

It will be remembered that this office was subjected to a similar rifling process, a few months since.

The frequency of these robberies is truly alarming, and no precaution to prevent them should be neglected. Where it cannot well be arranged to have a person sleep on the premises, the next best protection is a good dog.—This expense we should think would readily be incurred, rather than the risk of losing the property of others, as well as the loss of that for which a postmaster is solely responsible, such as postage stamps and government funds which may be at the time in his custody.

Disinterested.

Some time since we gave an account of an experiment tried by a gentleman of New Haven, who invested a small sum, which he deposited with the postmaster there, and which was to be applied to the payment of the amounts due on letters which would otherwise have been held for postage. Mr. C. M. Peck, of the Detroit office, sends us his experience in the same line:

"About the 15th of March I set aside a fund of \$5 to pay postage on letters held for postage. I intend to use it as long as the stamps hang out.

"I have sent 388 letters, and have received stamps from 149 letters. The funds stand good to-day for 33 cts. Draw your own conclusions. Yes, verily, as the Scripture saith, 'Put not your faith in princes; and, you may add, 'or any other man.' I now confine myself to soldiers' letters. About two-thirds of them send me stamps. I receive a good many letters of thanks, but none so satisfactory as from the soldiers. Most of the others simply say, 'Here's your stamp—go to grass.' A few, more appreciative, come and express themselves personally. Some enclose 5, 10, 20 cents; and I have received from one person 50 cts. for the fund.—Upon the whole, I am not sorry that I have tried the experiment.

"It is not often we say aught against the fair sex; but between ourselves, they are the most negligent of all in this matter."

The post office at Plainfield, New Jersey, was robbed on the night of the 15th of May.—Missing, some fifty or sixty letters, about \$10 in stamps, and some money. Look out for these night visitors.

UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. III. No. 10.

NEW YORK, JULY, 1863.

WHOLE No. 34.

New Law and Instructions.

Copies of the official pamphlet, embracing all required information regarding the operations and execution of the new postal law, are being rapidly distributed among postmasters, and have doubtless already reached a large majority of the offices. We therefore deem it unnecessary to give in our columns the entire contents of the pamphlet in question. We make, however, some further extracts as follows:

SECTION 4.

And he further enacted, That every postmaster shall keep a record in his office of all postage stamps and envelopes, and of all postal books, blanks, or property received from his predecessor in office or from the Post Office Department, or from any of its agents, and also of any payments in money for postage, and all payments for box-rents, and of all other receipts on account of any part of the postal service, and of any other transactions which shall be required by the Postmaster General; and these records shall be preserved and delivered over to his successor in office, and shall be at all times subject to examination of any Special Agent of the Department.

INSTRUCTION No. 4.—The record required in this section may be in the form of an account against the postmaster, in which he will charge himself with the articles as excepted under the date when received, or it may be kept as a simple record of each day's transactions. Payments for postage made in money may be entered daily, showing the entire amount received in each day. The entries should, if possible, show separately the amount received for letter postages, for regular newspapers, &c., &c., and miscellaneous. The entry of money received for box-rents should show the number of the box for which the payment was made.

When stamps or stamped envelopes are sent to a postmaster, any discrepancy between the amount stated in the bill accompanying and that actually received must be reported immediately to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, with the affidavits specified in section 404 of the regulations of 1859.

Postmasters are directed, in all cases, to count their stamps before signing and returning the receipt therefor.

Credit will not be allowed in cases where offices have been robbed of stamps or stamped envelopes. In an opinion of a former Attorney General the following occurs: "If the stamps should be stolen or lost, and get into the hands of those who may use them, and thus deprive the government of so much revenue, the postmaster should be held for them. One who has the custody of public money or property, and is paid for taking care of it, cannot get rid of his responsibility by showing a theft or accidental loss. He is an insurer of its safety against all perils of that kind."

The use of the office-labeling or postmarking stamp as a cancelling instrument is prohibited, and a separate instrument must in all cases be used.

SECTION 9.

And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General may provide by regulation for the disposition, for the benefit of the Department, of printed matter which remains in any post office, or in the Department, not called for by the party addressed; but the postmaster shall notify the publisher of any newspaper or periodical of the fact when any subscriber shall refuse to receive a copy of the paper, or when any notice for the same for the period of one month, which notice may be sent free under regulation to be provided by the Postmaster General.

INSTRUCTION No. 9.—In the absence of special instructions to the contrary, the undelivered matter shall at the end of each quarter, be sold by the postmaster for the highest price attainable therefor; and the amount of proceeds thereof shall be entered in his quarterly account.

When any newspaper or magazine regularly sent through the mails has been refused by a subscriber thereto, or not called for by him for one month, the postmaster will write a statement of the facts to the postmaster whose attention is called to, to be by him communicated to the publisher.

SECTION 16.

And he further enacted, That no postmaster shall receive, to be conveyed by the mail, any packet or package which shall weigh more than four pounds, except books published or circulated by order of Congress.

SECTION 32.

And be it further enacted, That, for the greater security of valuable letters posted for transmission in the mails of the United States, the Postmaster General is authorized to establish a uniform plan for the registration of such letters on application of parties posting the same, and to require the payment of the postage, as well as a registration fee not exceeding twenty cents, on every letter or packet to be so registered; and every postmaster receiving the same in such manner as the Postmaster General may direct: *Provided, however,* That such registration shall not be compulsory, and it shall not render the Post Office Department or its revenue liable for the loss of such letters or packets, or the contents thereof; and provision shall be made by regulation for a return receipt to the writer, showing to whom and when such registered letter was delivered, and which shall be received in the courts as *prima facie* evidence of such delivery.

INSTRUCTION No. 32. Postmasters will observe and call attention to the important provisions of this section. The return receipt is made legal evidence of the delivery of the letter to the party addressed. To entitle a letter to registration the regular postage must be prepaid by stamps; and in addition to this, the registration fee must be paid in money.

The registration fee is twenty cents. It is of the utmost importance that postmasters should exercise the greatest care and diligence in the custody and despatch of registered letters, so that they may be able to make affidavit that a given registered letter was despatched from their respective offices on a certain day and in a designated mail pouch. The receipt delivered to the sender of the letter, and the corresponding marginal entry in the receipt book, should specify his name and residence. The postmaster or will at the same time prepare a blank return receipt, which must contain the same items and number as the receipt given the sender, and which is to be forwarded with the registered letter for the signature of the receiver. In addition to the registered number in the upper left hand corner of the letter, the word "Registered" should be plainly written or stamped on the face of the same. The blank return receipt to be signed by the receiver of the letter, should be enclosed in the same sealed wrapper with the left hand or registered letter-bill accompanying the parcel of letters to which it relates.

In all large offices where letters are received, entered, and mailed by different persons, it shall be the duty of the postmaster either to keep the receipt book, or to designate some one specially for that service, and to see that it is made the duty of the clerk receiving a letter for registry and keeping the account of registered letters sent, after making up each package of registered letters for mailing, to enter the same in a book to be kept for the purpose, in which shall be stated the date on which the package is sent away from the office, the name of the office to which the package is sent, and the number of

esch letter contained therein. Before the hour of mailing arrives, the package shall be passed to the mailing clerk, who will compare the letters in it with the entry on the book; and if found correct, shall issue a receipt for the same by signing his name opposite the number of each letter contained therein, and specifying the hour at which the letters are despatched from the office. The mailing clerk will see that the registered letter package is enclosed in the same package with the unregistered letters, sent by the same mail, and in the margin of the ordinary account of mails sent, opposite the entry of the post-bill accompanying said mail, shall be written the word "Registered," and the same word, or its initial, "R," written on the post-bill.

On receipt at a distributing office of a mail containing a package of registered letters, the clerk who opens and distributes the mail will pass the registered package to the clerk keeping the account of registered letters, who will receipt for the same by signing his name to the post-bill; he will then compare the letters found in the package with the accompanying bill, and will indorse it correct if he find it so, or will note the error, if there be one, and then enter the contents in the account of registered letters received, and deposit the letter or letters in a secure place to be kept with the blank return receipts, until delivered to the persons addressed.

On receipt at a distributing office of a mail containing a package of registered letters for distribution, the clerk who opens the mail will proceed in the same manner as above prescribed for registered letters received for delivery. The letters will then be entered in the account of registered letters received for distribution, and disposed of in the same manner as above provided for registered letters originally mailed at the office.

The postmaster at the office of delivery will not deliver a registered letter until the person authorized to receive it shall have first signed the return receipt therefor, and also a second acknowledgment to the same effect, to be filed at such office of delivery. The return receipt, duly filled up and signed, is to be forwarded as soon as practicable to the post office where the letter to which it relates was originally mailed, and it shall be the duty of the postmaster at the office of delivery to cause the same to be delivered without delay to the sender. In case the postmaster at the mailing office has not received a printed form of blank for the return receipt, he will make use for the purpose of the present printed receipt designed for the sender, with the requisite additions and modifications. And should the postmaster at the office of delivery fail to receive a blank return receipt, he should make out from the data in his possession a receipt of this kind, and return the same duly signed by the receiver to the mailing postmaster.

The use of a return receipt is not required for registered letters sent to or received from foreign countries.

From and after July 1, 1863, postmasters will be allowed a commission of fifty per cent. on the amount of registration fees received at their offices. Such portions of former regulations with regard to registered letters are not modified by the preceding text inasmuch as they are strictly observed.

Misuse of the Mails.

A Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Herald sends the following:

Great quantities of bogus jewelry, cheap novels and obscene works are daily coming into the army through the mails. General Patrick has nearly broken up the business, however, though bundles after bundle reaches him every day. The parties sending these make claim to be the firms of Winslow & Co. and Mackey & Co., New York. Every package that arrives at headquarters in the mails is turned over to General Patrick for examination. Those which contain nothing objectionable are forwarded to their owners; the rest are burned. We have already had a number of large bonfires, and there is yet material for several more. By this examination of the mails Gen. Patrick has secured a list of every officer and enlisted man sending for these obscene works, and it is now utterly impossible for any man to receive by mail a book, wood cut, or anything else that may be considered prejudicial to the morals of the army by the provost Marshal General. The proper regulations have been put on the track of the parties sending these packages to the troops, and we may not wait long to hear of their arrest and punishment.

No little credit is due postmasters Hissett and Cooley for the energy displayed in their department. The headquarters mail has been under their charge since early last year, and in that time nothing has occurred to interfere with the safe delivery of all letters to the troops. Among the letters we find curiosities that would fill a volume. The addresses of two letters which arrived here yesterday will serve as specimens:

W. HACK, D.,
Notorious Card-Player of Co. E,
Belle Plain, Va.

For Walter Humphres a colored boy in General Hooker's division but I do not now where. Wishing you would please to let some of your men make a search if there is such a boy in your camp.

MARY E. HUMPHRES, his mother.

MOURNING STAMPS.—A few days since, a female entered the post office in Pekin, Ill., for the purpose of mailing a letter to a friend who is in the army. Calling for an envelope, and while depositing the document therein, she gravely informed the postmaster that it contained very bad news—no less than the decease of a beloved nephew. As she dilated upon the melancholy theme her feelings became very much excited, and the epistle being duly sealed and superscribed, she in sorrowing tones inquired, "If the gentleman would be kind enough to place a black postage stamp upon it, that her friend might know there was a death in the letter before she opened it?"

Notwithstanding the mournful tone in which the question was propounded, the Government official could not restrain his risibilities, and was compelled to answer that "Uncle Sam had not yet furnished his deputies with any postage stamps especially adapted to mourning purposes. This announcement seemed very much to surprise the good woman, who was also equally shocked at the want of feeling displayed by the Government in not furnishing its children with such an outward sign of inward woe, for, to use her own expression, "It would be so convenient."

Correspondents may dismiss all fears that their epistolary secrets will leak out through the Dead Letter Office. Not one letter in fifty is read, and removal follows undisturbed curiosity.

Changes in Rates of Postage from 1792 to 1863.

We are indebted to E. T. INGRAM, Esq., of the Dead Letter Office, for the following interesting statistics in regard to the changes in the rates of domestic postages since the establishment of the government:

At the session of the first Congress of the United States, an act was passed for the temporary establishment of the Post Office, authorizing the appointment of a Postmaster General, &c., which act was approved Sept. 22, 1789.

The rates for postage on letters conveyed by mail were first established in the United States by an Act of Congress approved February 20, 1792, and are as follows:

Letters composed of a single sheet for a distance not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents; over 30 miles and not exceeding 60 miles, 8 cents; over 60 miles and not exceeding 100 miles, 10 cents; over 100 miles and not exceeding 150 miles, 12 cents; over 150 miles and not exceeding 200 miles, 15 cents; over 200 miles and not exceeding 250 miles, 17 cents; over 250 miles and not exceeding 350 miles, 20 cents; over 350 miles and not exceeding 450 miles, 22 cents; over 450 miles, 25 cents.

The law authorizing the above rates was in force until March 2, 1793, when the following rates were established:

Letters composed of a single sheet for a distance not exceeding 40 miles, 8 cents; over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 miles, 10 cents; over 90 miles and not exceeding 150 miles, 12 cents; over 150 miles and not exceeding 300 miles, 17 cents; over 300 miles and not exceeding 500 miles, 20 cents; over 500 miles, 25 cents. Which law was in force until April 9, 1816.

An act for establishing a General Post Office at the seat of government under the direction of a Postmaster General passed Congress and was approved April 30, 1810.

Dec. 23, 1814. An act providing additional revenue passed Congress, which added 50 per cent. to the rates of postage then established by law, which act was repealed February 1, 1816.

The following changes were made in the rates on letters April 9, 1816:

Letters composed of a single sheet for a distance not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents; over 30 miles and not exceeding 80 miles, 10 cents; over 80 miles and not exceeding 120 miles, 12 cents; over 120 miles and not exceeding 400 miles, 18 cents; over 400 miles, 25 cents. This law was in force until March 3, 1845, when an act passed Congress establishing the rates of postage on every single letter for any distance under 300 miles at five cents until March 3, 1851.

Dec. 23, 1814. An act providing additional revenue passed Congress, which added 50 per cent. to the rates of postage then established by law, which act was repealed February 1, 1816.

The following changes were made in the rates on letters April 9, 1816:

Letters composed of a single sheet for a distance not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents; over 30 miles and not exceeding 80 miles, 10 cents; over 80 miles and not exceeding 120 miles, 12 cents; over 120 miles and not exceeding 400 miles, 18 cents; over 400 miles, 25 cents. This law was in force until March 3, 1845, when an act passed Congress establishing the rates of postage on every single letter for any distance under 300 miles at five cents until March 3, 1851.

Postage on all single letters conveyed by the United States mail from any place on the coast of California to any place on the Atlantic was rated at 40 cents; and all single letters from one part of California to another, 12 cents. By act of Congress approved August 14, 1848.

The following rates of postage were established by act approved March 3, 1851:

Letters composed of a single sheet to any place within the United States not exceeding 3,000 miles, 3 cents, if prepaid; when not prepaid, 5 cents. For any distance exceeding 3,000 miles, double rates. All drop letters 1 cent each, and all advertised letters 1 cent in addition to the postage. This law was in force until March 3, 1855, when Congress passed a law reducing the rates of postage on all single letters carried by the United States to any distance between places not exceeding 3,000 miles to 3 cents; for any distance exceeding 3,000 miles, 10 cents; prepayment required. These rates were in force until March 3, 1853, when, by act of Congress, the rates were still further reduced, making a uniform rate of postage of 3 cents on all domestic letters transmitted in the mails of the United States, and not exceeding one-half ounce in weight. Drop letters to be 2 cents each, which insures their delivery by carriers.

Previous to 1792, the postage rates established by the Colonial government were in force.

Postage stamps were first introduced in the United States by act of Congress; approved March 3, 1847.

Stamp envelopes were introduced by act of Congress; approved August 31, 1852.

The act authorizing the registration of valuable letters passed Congress March 3, 1855.

Postage, Box Rents, &c.

The postmaster at Fort Wayne, Ind., sends us the following:

ERROR U. S. MAIL.—I see by the June number of your paper that holders of "Lock Boxes" are in a quandary as to how to get their unpaid mail matter directly through their boxes without delay. I solved that matter satisfactorily two years ago. I will state that all boxes and drawers in my office are furnished with locks. At present we have one thousand occupied. Box occupants who wish to receive their unpaid mail matter direct through their boxes, deposit any sum they please in an odd-colored envelope in their box, from which the clerk distributing unpaid matter takes the amount due. If the box-owners have suspicion of "fouling," they can keep their own checks as they take out such matter. The above plan does away with the trouble of the postmaster keeping the accounts. Where box-owners do not make a deposit, we have a regular set of printed cards to notify them to present the card, for so and so, to the delivery clerk, and it is then retained by him for further use.

The above plan has worked to a charm in this office for two years.

M. DRAKE, Jr., P. M.

Mr. Drake sends us samples of the cards referred to. They are of various colors, and are marked, "call for registered letter," "call for dead letter," "call and settle newspaper postage," "call for unpaid letter," etc., etc. We should think that this system, in all but the largest offices, would be a saving of time and trouble both to box-holders and postmasters.

Distribution.

At the late Convention of Special Agents of the P. O. Department, held at Cleveland, Ohio, the subject of Letter Distribution being under discussion, a paper was read, from which we here make some extracts. They will no doubt be interesting as showing the origin, objects and history of our Distribution system:

The distributing system is peculiar to the postal establishment of the United States, existing in no other country as far as known, and was devised in the early years of the Republic, to insure certainty and regularity in the transmission of letters and packets between remote points. This was when the nation was emerging from the Revolution, and population spreading to vacant and unoccupied lands: when the names of many localities were necessarily either unknown or imperfectly known to the offices in the old States, and some stopping places short of remote points, and particularly of new settlements and offices, were essential to the safe transit and delivery of correspondence. This was, also, before the era of steamboats and railways—when mails were conveyed on horse, in sulkeys and stages, over rough and mountainous roads, and through almost trackless forests and prairies; subjecting letters and small packages to injury from friction and from wet, unless closely and securely enveloped. These facts rendered it necessary for some larger office to be designated as receptacles for the correspondence of a district of territory to which it could be addressed in aggregated packages, and from which it could be distributed to the more remote and obscure places of destination with facility and safety. The conveyances for the mails, closely and securely enveloped, and required long pauses at particular stations for their refreshment, during which there was sufficient time for examining, distributing, and despatching mails, without subjecting them to further detention; and it was one of the earliest instructions of the Department that "postmasters and distributing officers are to distribute and remail all letters before the departure of the mail, and on no account delay them a single post." During that period, and in that state of things, many points were central and convenient for mail distribution which ceased to be so, and in fact became more obstructions to the rapid transit of correspondence, as improvements were made in the modes and speed of conveyance. Thus in 1810 Bennington and Brattleboro', in Vermont; Portsmouth, in New Hampshire; Pittsfield, in Massachusetts; Sharon, Sufield and Stamford, in Connecticut; Wilmington, in Delaware; Chambersburgh, and Easton, in Pennsylvania; Marietta, in Ohio; Salem, in North Carolina, &c., &c., were charged with distributing duties; and at Windsor, Vermont; Owego, New York; Hagers-town, Maryland; Zanesville, Ohio, &c., &c., are found on the list, and no doubt all did useful duty in their day; but, as improvements advanced, they were several discontinued—in every case, probably, against the wishes and remonstrances of their respective incumbents, and found their emoluments suddenly diminished.

In reference to many of the offices mentioned, distribution was discontinued while the mails were yet carried in stages; the delays and detentions were then being found prejudicial to the public interest.

As railroads were constructed and the mails carried upon them, the evils of the system became more apparent, occasioning delays of from twelve to twenty-four hours in correspondence, and causing very loud and just complaint. Since the completion of twenty-four thousand miles of railway, now in operation and carrying the mails, many offices heretofore favorably located for distribution became mere way offices, the trains passing them with slight pauses only, and thus largely increasing the evils of detention.

The emoluments derived by postmasters at distributing offices consist of a commission on the letters distributed. Originally the commission was five per centum on letter postage, paid and unpaid. This was afterwards increased by law to 7 per cent., and then to 12 per cent., at which it now stands. It is obviously the interest of those having charge of such offices to increase business of this kind to the utmost, and, though expressly forbidden by the Department to invite distribution from its legitimate channel, it has often been done, and it is believed that the Post Office revenue has in this manner been largely defrauded. Letters have been subjected to so many distributions as entirely to absorb the postage charged upon them; and in some cases the distribution commission of a postmaster has largely exceeded the whole proceeds of his office, and required a balance to be paid him quarterly from other sources. Even when no abuse is practised, and letters are subjected to only the necessary and proper distribution, a large portion of the correspondence of the country pays an unnecessary tax of 25 per centum, besides the regular commission of 40, 50, or 60 per cent., to which the mailing office is entitled. For instance: a hundred letters, on which the postage is three dollars, originating in small offices in Ohio and west of Pittsburgh, and destined for New England, are sent to Pittsburgh for distribution, and there subjected to a commission of 12 1/2 per cent.; from Pittsburgh they are sent to New York or Boston, and there charged with a second commission of 12 1/2 per cent., and then forwarded to destination. Assuming the average commission taken at the mailing offices to be 60 per cent., this three dollars' worth of letters pays a tax of 75 per cent. in the shape of commissions while passing through the mail, or \$ 2.25 out of \$ 3.

SHREWD.—Judging from remarks occasionally accompanying applications to us for information, we fear we may occupy, in the estimation of some inquirers, the not very enviable position of "scape-goat" between themselves and the Department. The postmaster, for instance, (and not a very obscure one,) asks us a few questions, and informs us that he does so because he hates to make his inquiries at bead-quarters, lest he should exhibit an undue degree of ignorance! On the same principle, we suppose, after we have posted him up, he will communicate with the Department to show how much he knows!

Speedy Justice.

A rare case of conviction, under the Act of March 3, 1825, relating to offences against the Post Office Department, took place in the United States District Court, at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on the 18th of June. The 129th section of the Act referred to subjects a person who advises and procures another to commit any of the offences set forth in the 126th and other preceding sections, to the same penalties and punishments as the persons are subjected to who shall actually do or perpetrate any of the said acts or crimes; and it was under the operation of the two sections mentioned that the conviction was effected.

The principal witness was Henry W. Fletcher, a lad about 13 years of age, son of the postmaster at Jackson, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. He testified that a man named Pardon Barrett, and another whose name it would not be proper to give at present, in the latter part of February, suggested to him that, "as the boys in the Army were sending home money, he might have the luck to get some, if he were to take letters out of the post office." In order to entice him into the commission of the offence, these wicked men not only agreed to "see him out of the scrape," if he should happen to be detected, but they promised to take him to Buffalo, and thence across the Lake into Canada, where, as one of them remarked, nobody could find them.

Barrett, as the boy testified, gave him definite instructions how to proceed. Jackson having but a semi-weekly mail, and matter for several offices in the neighborhood having to lie over twenty-four hours, he was to take only such packages as were passing through the Jackson office, and these were to be confined to such as contained letters mailed at Washington City. The first package which the boy abstracted was taken out in the early part of May. He succeeded in getting \$20, two of the letters having each a \$10 U. S. Treasury note in them. He reported the fact to Barrett, who said: "Good—you had pretty good luck; keep it a-going!" And the latter did "keep it a-going" until he had abstracted upwards of forty letters, one of which he realized \$224 in money. One of the letters contained a check of \$34.93, which Barrett told him he must not attempt to use, as it would be unsafe, and might lead to their detection. Accordingly, it was hidden with the letters under a barn near by. Another precaution which Barrett impressed on the boy was not to carry the money with him, but to hide it until the 4th of July, at which time the three were to meet at Susquehanna Depot, a village on the Erie Railway, and divide the "spoils," the arrangement being that each was to have a third. Barrett, on several occasions, tried to borrow \$10 from the boy; but the latter "held him to the bond," and refused to advance any until the day agreed upon. It seems, however, that he manifested a more liberal spirit towards another boy, a boon companion, to whom he gave \$45 to enable him to run away.

The boy was corroborated in his statement, in a number of particulars, by other witnesses. The letters which were not entirely destroyed were found at the place he designated. The bulk of the money (\$169) was found in a shed adjoining the Baptist meeting house. It was ascertained that a silver half dollar, which young Fletcher alleged he had got out of a letter, had been sent by a man in the Army to his little son. There were other circumstances brought to light, but enough has already been narrated to give a correct idea of the case.

The Post Office Department was notified of the losses on the 6th of June. The boy Fletcher was at first supposed to be the only person who was concerned in the affair; but a few days later Barrett was implicated, and arrested at Geneseo, New York, he having left Jackson on the pretext of selling a patent letter-worker. On the 16th he was conveyed to Williamsport, Pa.; on the 17th he was put upon trial; the next day the Jury rendered a verdict of guilty; and on the 20th he was lodged, in accordance with the sentence, in the Western Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, at Alleghany City. In consideration of his age (56), His Honor Judge McCandless sentenced him to undergo imprisonment for a period of but three years. The investigation was conducted by Special Agent Row.

Letter Addresses.

By steamboat, by railway, by wagon or buggy, no matter if weather is chill, hot or drizzling. Overcome every obstacle, and do not stop short of taking this down to one Charles Henry Hoyt; he's down in the Army, in Banks's Division, where the mail goes, I fear, with scanty precision; for I've written, and written, and they do not get there:

I guess I'll complain to Postmaster BEAIR, in 23d Regiment, Connecticut men, You'll find this tall fellow—(for short, he's called "Hen.")

But if you can't find him? Why, then, you can't, then give these few papers to Edgar Wygant, He's in the same company, whose letter is "H." As, when you get down there, you surely will see. But this is sufficient—I'll stick on the stamp. For my muse has already got quite a bad ramp.

Now, Mr. Clerk of Uncle Sam, I've writ a letter, and here it am; Just give it your mark, and send it on Down to Wilhelm's, for it's for John— A noble fellow, a noble's son, Who lives at a hamlet called Tom's Run, Lycoming Co., Pa.

Pray, Uncle Samuel, take this letter; I send it 'cause I have no better. Its value you will much more better. If you will take it to Long Branch, And you and I will then not quarrel, If you will give it to Joe Morrell; Your mission then will be done, Unless it's given to the old man's son.

To Charles F. Hunt this letter I write, With the hope that its contents his mind may delight; If it don't make him good, it can't do him evil— For it comes from a friend, and not from the d—l. In Manchester City, New Hampshire State, He's working for "Limpy" both early and late.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, JULY, 1863.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 11.
DEAR SIR:—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSESSMENT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Department and Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. Holbrook, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:
Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

CHANGES IN FOREIGN POSTAGE.—By an order of the Department which will be found elsewhere, the rates of postage to Borneo, China, Japan, Java, Philippine Islands, Laibuan, and Moluccas, via Marseille, have been materially changed. The former rate of 51 cents per quarter ounce has been superseded by the rate of 53 cents per half ounce—\$ 1.06 for one ounce, and an additional rate of \$ 1.06 for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce. This is the only change in foreign rates during the last month, and our table has been corrected accordingly.

DOMESTIC POSTAGE TABLE.—Our Table of Domestic Postages has been arranged to meet the requirements of the new law, and having been revised at the Department, may be considered entirely reliable.

[OFFICIAL.]
Foreign Postage.
Rates of Postage to Java, China, Laibuan, Borneo, Japan, the Moluccas and Philippine Islands, in the British Mail via Marseille.

Notice has been given by the British Post Office, that on the 1st of June, 1863, and thenceforward, the whole postage upon letters forwarded from the United Kingdom, via Marseille, to Java, China, Laibuan, Borneo, Japan, the Moluccas and Philippine Islands, will be charged by the British scale of weight, instead of, as previously, by the British scale for the British inland and sea postage, and by the French scale, advancing by quarter ounces, for the French transit rate; and that, to cover the payment made to France for the transit of the letters over the French territory, there will be levied the sum of 4d. (8 cents) up to the weight of half an ounce, instead of levying 3d. (6 cents) for each quarter of an ounce.

In future, therefore, upon letters posted in the United States, and despatched in the mails to the United Kingdom, to be forwarded, by way of Marseille, to any of the countries and places above mentioned, the following rates of postage (United States and British) must be prepaid at the mailing office, viz.:

On a letter not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce in weight, 53 cts.
" " above $\frac{1}{2}$ and not exceeding 1 ounce, \$ 1.06
On a letter above 1 ounce and not exceeding 2 ounces, \$ 2.12
and so on, making an additional charge of \$ 1.06 cts. for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

[OFFICIAL.]
The following order has been issued by the Department:
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
INSPECTION OFFICE, June 1, 1863.

SIX.—With a view to promote official responsibility and system in the postal service, the Postmaster General directs that, from and after the first day of July, 1863, there shall be provided and kept in every post office the gross receipts of which amounted, in the previous fiscal year, to the sum of \$100 or more, a book, to be designated and known as the "Complaint Book," in which shall be entered, from time to time, all complaints of missing letters and value claimed to have been deposited in and addressed to such office, together with brief statement of the most essential facts in each case.

When a reasonable doubt arises as to the truthfulness of any complaint, the postmaster may require it to be accompanied by the sworn affidavit of the party alleged to have posted the letter.

The "Complaint Book" is to be kept in a neat and substantial manner, and at the close of each quarter, the aggregate number of complaints which shall remain at that time unaccounted for, is to be transmitted to the Department (Inspection Office) in the following form, to wit:

POST OFFICE, _____, 1863.
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That for the quarter ending _____, 1863, there have been made to this office complaints of missing letters of value, to the number of _____, of which still remain unaccounted for.

A. B., Postmaster.
N. B.—The above order is not to supersede or change the rule embraced in section 206 of the Standing Regulations, requiring reports of supposed depositions, as such cases may arise, from time to time.
In small post offices, the complaints above mentioned should be entered upon sheets of foolscap paper, attached together, leaving a margin for binding when necessary.
WILLIAM A. BRYAN,
Chief Clerk Post Office Department.

Postal Items for the Public.
CHANGES UNDER THE NEW LAW.—In order that our readers who are not officially connected with the mail service, may have a full understanding of the changes in postal matters effected by the new law, which went into operation on the first of the present month, we give below a condensed summary of those of its provisions of which it is necessary for persons using the mails to "take due notice and govern themselves accordingly."

1. The rate of postage on all domestic mail letters to be carried any distance within the United States is now THREE CENTS per half ounce, or fraction thereof, to be prepaid by stamps. The former rate of ten cents to California, Oregon and Washington Territory is abolished.

2. All local or "drop" letters must hereafter be prepaid by stamps, at the rate of two cents for every half ounce or fraction thereof, instead of one cent each, as heretofore.

3. The postage on transient newspapers and periodicals, sent in one package to one address, is now two cents for each four ounces or fraction thereof, to be prepaid by stamps; on books, double that rate. The postage on single transient newspapers not weighing over four ounces is now two cents.

4. The rate of postage on circulars is now as follows: Three or any less number may be sent, unsealed, to one address, at the single rate of two cents, and in that proportion for a greater number, adding one rate for every three circulars directed to one address. They can no longer be sent at the former rate of one cent each. No extra charge is now made for business cards stamped or printed on the envelopes of circulars.

5. The former carriers' fee of one cent on each letter delivered, is abolished. Hereafter, carriers collect nothing, except such unpaid postage as may be due on the letters delivered by them.

6. The extra one cent stamp formerly required on all letters deposited in lamp-post boxes and branch stations, is no longer necessary.

7. All communications to any officer or department of the government (including the President), written by a private citizen, whether on "official business" or otherwise, must now be prepaid by stamps.

8. A fee of TWENTY cents (instead of five, as heretofore) must hereafter be paid on each registered letter, in addition to the postage.

9. A letter cannot be forwarded without a charge of extra postage, when it has once been mailed according to its original address.

Special Agents' Convention.
The Commission of Special Agents ordered by the Postmaster General, and which convened in this city on the 1st ult., held an adjourned session at Cleveland, Ohio, on the 24th and 25th ult. There were present at the last meeting Messrs. Sloane, Tyler, Brandscomb, Waller, Humphrey, Clark, and Holbrook. E. L. Childs, Esq., Chief Clerk of the Contract Office, was also present as the representative of that bureau, and the postmasters of Toledo and Columbus, Ohio, and Duquesne, Iowa, also attended the meeting by direction of the Department.

The subjects of Letter Distribution and Distribution Offices occupied a good deal of the time of the Convention, and their importance and necessity, as a feature of the postal system, was unanimously agreed to. The expediency of continuing distribution at certain points already designated for that purpose, was also considered according to instructions, and a revision of the manner in which distribution duties are now performed, particularly in the West, with a view to proper alterations and improvements, having been previously assigned to a sub-committee, the results of its labors were adopted, and are to be submitted to the Department. A report is also to be made upon various other postal matters.

The doings of this Convention are of course considered as merely advisory. It is hoped, however, that they will be productive of good in many particulars.

Box Rents.
The 3d section of the new law seems to have alarmed postmasters unnecessarily. Many have been led to suppose that all their collections for Box Rents were required to be paid over to the Department, even in cases where the boxes were put up or purchased by the postmaster, and remain strictly his private property.

We have the authority of the Department for saying that no change is authorized or contemplated in regard to such receipts or Box Rents. They must be correctly stated, however, in the quarterly returns, in connection with other similar items of compensation.

Payment for Box Rents may be made either quarterly, semi-yearly, or yearly in advance, according to the choice of the lessee. Postmasters, for the sake of uniformity, can establish the term of payment themselves; but their customers cannot be compelled to pay for more than one quarter at one time.

THREE CENT PIECES.—The annexed official letter will settle a matter which has frequently been referred to us:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, FINANCE OFFICE,
Washington, June 24, 1863.
SIR: In answer to your letter of 23d instant, I have to say, that by the law authorizing their coinage three cent pieces were made a legal tender for any sum not exceeding thirty cents. They are therefore to be received to that extent by postmasters.

Unpaid foreign letters being stamped with two amounts—one representing the postage payable in coin, and the other that payable in currency—the latter only is charged upon the postbills, and the instruction has invariably been given, that in the event of payment in coin, the difference between the two amounts should be entered as an overcharge.

Respectfully yours,
A. N. ZEVELY,
Third Assistant P. M. General.

J. Holbrook, Esq., Special Agent P. O. Dept.

New Postal Arrangements.
The following named post offices in the city of New York, have been discontinued by the Postmaster General, namely:—Yorkville, Harlem, Harsenville, Manhattanville, Washington Heights, King's bridge Park, and King's Bridge. All letters for the above named offices should hereafter be addressed to New York city.

The operations of the New York post office are thus extended over the entire length and breadth of Manhattan Island.

The short time allowed after the order, for the necessary preparation for these radical changes and improvements—involving the establishment of six new Stations, the selection of the Superintendents, Clerks, Carriers, and other perplexing details—has certainly been well improved by postmaster Wakeman, and his experienced General Superintendent of the Stations and Carriers, John H. Hallett, Esq. Of the amount of labor and responsibility attaching to the arrangement and working of a system which is to supply such vast and varied postal facilities throughout this great metropolis, the public can form but a very slight conception.

There will be under the new arrangement, five deliveries each day by Carriers, from the general post office and most of the thirteen Stations, and six collections from the lamp post boxes, 586 in number. On Sundays only one collection will be made, and that at 8 15 P. M.

The above changes are of course of great benefit to the whole city, inasmuch as they embrace more prompt and frequent exchanges of mails between the main office and all the Stations than heretofore. To the people residing above 55th Street, however, until now dependent on the comparatively slow facilities afforded by small post offices, this substitution of the Station and Carrier system will be of invaluable convenience, as will soon become apparent, and which cannot fail to be fully appreciated by the public.

Letter Carriers.
The idea whose prevalence among postmasters, at offices where letter carriers are employed, that their salaries under the new law must depend entirely on the receipts from postages on local or drop letters—and that, as in many large towns the income from that source has heretofore been comparatively small, therefore the penny-post system would have to be given up altogether. This is a false alarm. Section 14th clearly provides that the expenses of the letter carriers are to be paid "out of the income of the post office at the district in which they are incurred."

PROVOST MARSHALS, COLLECTORS, &c.—Information is asked by several postmasters as to the rights of Provost Marshals and the Collectors' departments, under the Revenue laws, in the matter of franking. Application by us to the Department, has been answered by Gov. RANDALL in a letter, from which we extract the following:

Letters and packages upon the official business of the Government, from the Assessors to their assistants, or to the Treasury Department at Washington, are entitled to be mailed free of postage. Similar matter from the assistants to the principals is entitled to be mailed free; but other correspondence conducted by them must be prepaid by postage stamps.

The same rule will apply to mail matter passing between Collectors and their assistants. In regard to the Provost Marshals in the several States, they have no right to mail any packages free of postage, except such as may be addressed to the Provost Marshal General, or to the War Department at Washington.

These regulations have been in force, and will not be materially changed under the new law.

THE NEW TWO-CENT STAMPS, which have just been issued by the Department to meet the demand created by the new law fixing the rates on drop letters, circulars, transient printed matter, etc., at two cents, will soon be in the hands of most of our readers. They are black in color, and bear a finely engraved head of General Andrew Jackson—a design especially appropriate at the present time, when his well-known saying, "The Union must and shall be preserved," needs to be considered as something more practical than a mere piece of fine sentiment. The portrait of the old hero occupies nearly the entire surface of the stamp, and the character of the engravings is such that the process of defacement, to which it must unfortunately be subjected, is easily and effectually prevented.

THE PARDON OF HAYDEN.—We learn that the pardon of Richard Hayden, who had been convicted of taking from the New Bedford, Mass. post office a letter containing articles of value, was granted solely on the ground that he was "in an advanced stage of pulmonary consumption." This was certified to by the attending physician and by the jailer, the physician certifying that in his opinion Hayden was rapidly declining, and the family of the latter petitioning that he might be allowed to die at home. The ground on which the pardon was granted was stated in the warrant, and was approved by the United States Attorney.

We state this that the case alluded to may not be regarded as another instance of the somewhat free use of the pardoning power in cases of post office and mail robbery.

It is to be feared, from the complaints which reach us of newspapers, books, and other printed matter failing to reach their destination, that some postmasters and clerks are inclined to consider this class of mailable matter as of not much consequence, and neglect to pay proper attention to its forwarding and delivery. This is a serious error, and for the benefit of all concerned we will state, that the detention or delay of such matter, by any person employed in the mail service, subjects the offender to a fine of \$50.—[Sec. 128, P. O. Laws.]

Be Obliging.
We would suggest to postmasters and clerks the propriety, as well as good policy, of looking for letters when called for, even if satisfied that there are none on hand to the address of the applicant. To say nothing of the possibility of a mistake in the matter, which a search may rectify, the disappointment of a person expecting in vain the arrival of a letter is, perhaps, hard enough to bear, without the additional burden of a suspicion that it is possibly not so much due to the neglect of their correspondent, as to the indifference and carelessness of a postmaster or clerk, who is disinclined to take the trouble of looking over a few letters. It is a safe rule, moreover, in dealing with the public at post offices, to assume that all letters inquired for are of business or domestic importance, and to make it a matter of conscience to see that they are delivered at the earliest possible moment after they are received.

PRIVATE LETTER BOXES.—The suggestions of a former correspondent in regard to private boxes for letters, to be attached to dwelling houses, stores and other places of business, an arrangement extensively provided in London, becomes more and more important in view of other improvements in the carrier system about being introduced in New York and elsewhere. Such a general introduction of the plan here, would greatly facilitate the delivery of letters, and prove exceedingly convenient to those receiving them. Heretofore it could not well be adopted, as the carrier was obliged to seek an interview with the citizen, in order to collect any postage that might be due, or at least his fee of one penny. That necessity no longer exists under the new provision for free delivery, the only exceptions being unpaid foreign letters and those short paid. Nine out of ten of the letters supplied by carriers, could be dropped into such a box without troubling the owner, who might keep his own key, or intrust it with some careful member of his family. By opening it from the inside, he would thus secure his correspondence against any dishonesty on the part of servants or others.

We cannot think of anything in itself so cheap and simple, which would be so important an auxiliary to the letter carrier in the discharge of his duties, and we trust that our citizens will generally try the experiment.

MR. EDITOR.—If a postmaster should be drafted, would he be compelled to resign his office? Not necessarily. Where a postmaster finds himself thus situated, the case should be reported to the Appointment Office for special instructions, and if a proper and acceptable person is employed to take charge of the office temporarily, there would probably be no objection in any quarter.—EN. MAIL.

GOOD BEHAVIOR.—We are gratified that the "good behavior" test is hereafter to be applied to so important a class of officials as our letter carriers. By the law and instructions of the Department, they are not only to be retained in office if competent and industrious, but their salaries are to be gradually increased according to their fidelity, experience and usefulness. This is right, and we trust the application of so just a principle, both as it regards the public interest and its public servants, will not long be thus limited.

Now that the carriers are to receive salaries instead of being paid as formerly according to the number of letters delivered, fears have been expressed that less pains would be taken in hunting up the owners of letters. If, however, there is negligence in this respect, it will soon appear from the number of letters returned undelivered. Should any just grounds arise for suspecting unfaithfulness, complaint should at once be made in the proper quarter.

It is the determination of the Postmaster General that this branch of the postal service shall be made to answer the public wants and expectations wherever it is put in operation.

A young man named J. L. H. Cargill, employed as a clerk at Station E, New York Post Office, was arrested on the 24th ult., on a charge of secreting and embezzling a mail letter. Sundry losses of letters having occurred at the Station, and circumstances pointing very strongly to Cargill as the cause, measures were taken for his detection by Mr. Gayler, of the Special Agent's Department, which resulted in finding a valuable letter secreted upon the prisoner's person. He was held to bail in \$5,000, and has had a partial hearing before U. S. Commissioner Stillwell.

The U. S. Grand Jury at New York have found a bill of indictment for mail robbery against Thomas Van Cott, the letter-carrier, whose arrest was noticed in our last. His trial is postponed until the Fall.

Geo. C. D. S. Gauthier, the theological student, of whose untheological doings we gave an account in our June number, was on the 27th ult., arraigned on a charge of forgery, to which he pleaded guilty, and was remanded for sentence till the next term of the Court of Sessions.

Maj. R. K. Scott, Chief Clerk of the Inspection Office, is acting in place of W. A. Bryan, Esq., Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department, during his temporary absence from Washington.

There seems to be some confusion in respect to the postage on printed matter reaching a post office without having been prepaid. In all such cases, double postage should be collected. See section 26 of the new law.

The numerous official and personal friends of Hon. A. N. Zevely, Third Assistant P. M. General, will be glad to learn that he has so far recovered from his late illness as to be able to resume his duties at the Department.

The "Complaint Book."
In another column will be found the order of the Department requiring, in all post offices the yearly gross receipts of which amount to over \$100, the keeping of a "Complaint Book." Postmasters should lose no time in complying with the requirements of the order, a reference to which will show the object and mode of keeping the book. It will be observed that the details of alleged losses are not to be sent to the Department with the quarterly report of complaints, but only entered upon the book, which is to be retained in the office.

Newspaper Postage.
"In all cases where subscribers have paid newspaper postage for a period extending beyond the 1st of July, 1863—at which time the New Post Office Law goes into effect—they are entitled to receive the papers so paid for, without paying the increased rate called for by the new law, provided such payment was made prior to the passage of the law."

In connection with the above decision of the Department, we are asked: "How is it in cases in which payments have been made under similar circumstances, and which exceed the rate called for by the new law? Should the excess be refunded?"

Of course not. The old contract must be respected when it pinches the citizen no less than when the Department is the loser. "It is a poor rule, that won't work both ways."—[EN. MAIL.]

We may save city letter Carriers here and elsewhere, some time and trouble by calling attention to the fact, that they are now compelled by law to demand double postage on all unpaid printed matter, as well as on written correspondence, arriving by mail, drop letters or papers, &c., being also included.

For instance, a single transient newspaper, if unpaid, is four cents. And an unpaid drop letter, if weighing over the half ounce and less than an ounce, would be eight cents, and if three rates, twelve cents. Also, an unpaid mail letter, if single rate of half ounce, would be six cents, and if two rates, twelve cents, and so on.

MARK YOUR MONEY.—Persons in the habit of remitting bank bills, treasury notes, etc., through the mails, would find it a very useful practice to affix a small private mark to each note, taking a memorandum of the same, so that it could be readily identified by them in case of "accident." If this plan were generally adopted, the ends of justice, as well as the restoration of lost money to the losers, would be accomplished with much less difficulty than they sometimes are at present. The mark should be a peculiar one—not a cross or circle—and should be a different one, if possible, on the money sent in each letter.

MISTAKEN.—The synopsis of the New Postal Law, as given by some of the city papers, is in several respects erroneous. It is mistaken, for instance, that postmasters are now to be paid salaries, instead of by commissions as heretofore. Such a section was contained in the first draft of the new bill, but it was stricken out in the House, and the former mode of compensation remains intact. A similar error occurs respecting letters forwarded from one point to another. No additional charge is to be made, says the Daily Times. Directly the reverse is the fact. On all such letters the law requires extra postage, unless the letter is off its course by the carelessness of the mailing office, in which case the postage already paid is sufficient.

REGISTRATION.—A perusal of that section of the late Act relating to registered letters, and the instructions thereon, will remind postmasters that several important changes are ordered. One of the most important is the taking of duplicate receipts, on the delivery of a letter of that class, and forwarding one of the same to the post office at which the letter was mailed, to be handed over to the writer of the letter.

Another new requirement makes it the duty of a postmaster or clerk taking charge of a registered letter or package at the delivery office, to place his name on the accompanying postbill. This plan has been voluntarily adopted to some extent heretofore; but it is now made obligatory, and we think very properly so.

The greatest degree of care and accuracy in the custody of this class of letters, is due to those who faithfully fulfill their part of the contract by paying the extra fee, &c. They do so in good faith, believing that the Government will fulfill its whole obligations.

Rule for Rating Letters to Great Britain, &c.
The attention of postmasters is particularly called to the mode of rating postage upon letters exchanged in the mails between this country and the United Kingdom, which differs essentially from the United States domestic scale, when the weight of the packet or letter exceeds one ounce.

The scale of progression adopted for letters exchanged with the United Kingdom is as follows, viz: One rate for a single letter not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight.

Two rates when over $\frac{1}{2}$, but not exceeding 1 ounce.

Four rates when over 1, but not exceeding 2 ounces.

Six rates when over 2, but not exceeding 3 ounces, and so on, charging two additional rates for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

In no case should 3, 5 or 7 rates be collected upon a letter or packet addressed to the United Kingdom, the proper charges being either 1, 2, 4, 6, rates, &c., according to weight.

Notwithstanding the explicit instructions of the Department on this subject, it is found that many postmasters are in the practice of charging postage upon letters and packets for the United Kingdom according to our domestic scale, (viz: one rate for each half-ounce or fraction of half an ounce), and this insufficient amount of postage are frequently prepaid, which are entirely lost to the senders, as no account is taken of short payments of postage.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

Important Postal Regulations.

Reduction of Postage on all Pre-paid Letters transmitted in the United States and Prussian Closed Mail.

We are requested to state that the reduced postage charge of 2 cents the single rate on pre-paid letters, will, in future, be extended to the entire correspondence exchanged in the United States and Prussian closed mails, so that letters to or from Baden, Russia, (including Poland,) Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and all other countries beyond Germany, will have the benefit of the reduced pre-paid rate.

The single rate of letter postage by the Prussian closed mail will therefore be as follows, viz:

Pre-paid.	Unpaid.
To Prussia, Austria, and the German States (including Poland) 2 cents	30 cents.
To Denmark 33 "	35 "
To Sweden 40 "	42 "
To Norway 44 "	46 "

And so on with respect to all other countries beyond Germany, 3 cents less postage being charged for pre-paid than for unpaid letters.

Rates of Postage to the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension, by British Mail via England. Also, to Foreign Possessions in the West Indies, &c., via the United Kingdom. We are requested to state, that the British Post Office, having on the 1st of April, increased the British postage to one shilling sterling (twenty-four cents), upon letters conveyed by packet between the United Kingdom and the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, St. Helena, and Ascension; the single rate of letter postage between the United States and those Colonies, respectively, will hereafter be forty-five cents, prepayment required.

Also, letters posted in the United States, which the sender may desire to transmit via the United Kingdom, and thence by means of the British Mail Packets, to the following Foreign Possessions in the West Indies, &c., viz: St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Eustacia, St. Martin, Guyana, Martinique, Guadalupe, Surinam, Caracas, Porto Rico, and the Mosquito Territory, will be subject to the same increased rate of forty-five cents (U. S. and British postage), prepayment required.

POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.—A practice prevails at many Post Offices in this country of delivering, free of postage, newspapers received from Great Britain and Ireland. This practice is erroneous, and results either from inattention to the published regulations of the Department, or from the mistaken notion which many postmasters appear to have, that the English penny stamps, attached to such papers, pre-pays the full postage.

Our Postal Convention with the United Kingdom provides that each country shall levy and collect its own postage only on newspapers, at the rate of two cents each, whether they are sent or received. Hence newspapers received in this country from Great Britain, come pre-paid the British postage only, and postmasters must be particular, in all cases, to collect the United States charge of two cents, on their delivery.

ARMY LETTERS—IMPORTANT ORDER.—We call the special attention of all postmasters to the following order from the Department, which has for its object the more prompt delivery of letters addressed to our soldiers in the field. A general compliance with this order will, we have no doubt, do much towards decreasing the number of complaints of delayed and missing soldiers' letters.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, APPOINTMENT OFFICE.
Washington, 1st April, 1863.

In order to insure the prompt and certain delivery of letters and other mail matter addressed to officers and soldiers serving in the army of the Potomac, or stationed near Washington, D. C., the Post Master General directs that Postmasters, in making up their mails weekly for Washington direct, or for distributing offices, shall place all army letters in packages by themselves, and plainly mark them "Army Letters," so that when such packages arrive in Washington they may be taken at once to an apartment provided for their reception, without being opened with the mails for the city.

ST. JOHN B. L. SKINNER,
Acting Asst. P. M. G.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.—The question having often been raised whether the old or new postage rates on newspapers are to be adhered to in cases where payments have already been made beyond the first of July next, we addressed the Department on the subject, with the following result:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, APPOINTMENT OFFICE.
Washington, 1st April, 1863.

Sir: Yours of the 14th ult. is received. In answer, I have to say, that in all cases where subscribers have paid postage for a period extending beyond the 1st of July, 1863—at which time the new post office law goes into effect—they are entitled to receive the papers so paid for, without paying the increased rate called for by the new law—provided such payment was made prior to the passage of that law—i. e., 3d March, 1863.

Respectfully, Your Obedt. Servt.,
ST. JOHN B. L. SKINNER,
Acting Asst. P. M. G.
J. HOBBS, Esq., Special Agent P. O. D.

RATES OF POSTAGE TO COSTA RICA.—The following order has been issued by the Postmaster General, viz:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, APPOINTMENT OFFICE.
Washington, May 1, 1863.

Whereas authority vested in the Postmaster General, and by and with the advice and consent of the President of the United States, (which advice and consent more fully appear by an instrument of writing this day filed in the Department,) and with the view to establish better postal arrangements between the United States and the Republic of Costa Rica, the Government of Costa Rica having agreed, on its part, to reduce the local postage charges in that country to one-half the rates hitherto levied upon letters to and from the United States: It is hereby ordered, that on and after the first of June, 1863, the postage to be levied and collected in the United States on each letter or parcel, not exceeding half an ounce (avoirdupois) in weight, addressed to or received from Costa Rica, shall be 10 cents, an additional rate of 10 cents to be charged for each additional weight of half an ounce, or of less than half an ounce.

And the postage to be levied and collected in the United States on newspapers, unsealed circulars, and other kinds of printed matter addressed to or received from Costa Rica, shall be two cents on each newspaper or unsealed circular, and one cent on each newspaper, or on each circular, or on each periodical, book, and other kinds of printed papers: Provided, that no book, bound or unbound, weighing over two pounds (avoirdupois) shall be admitted in the mails at less than full letter rate of postage as hereinbefore prescribed; And provided further, That newspapers and printed matter of every kind shall be enclosed in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends, and be subject in all respects to the restrictions imposed by the laws and regulations of the Post Office Department.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster General.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster-General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices during the month of June:—

ESTABLISHED.

POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	ROUTE.
Beat's Ferry	Col. T.	Route 14,465	Supplied from
Bewleyville	Brockenridg.	Supplied from	Brandenburgh.
Big Buffalo	Harrison	Route 4,619	
Blue Mounds	Lin.	Kansas	Route 14,208
Bollins	Marin	Col.	Supplied from
Oleo atra	Mercer	Mo.	Supplied from
			Ravanna.
Cross Roads	Wayne	Ill.	Supplied from
			Leasant Grove.
Diamond	Rice	Min.	Route 13,620
East Cabot	Caledonia	Vt.	Route 403
E. Rochester	Stratford	N. H.	Supplied from
Folk's Sta'n	Harrison	Ohio	Route 9,009
Forest Cove	Baker	Oregon	Sup. f. Walla- Walla, Wash. T.
Genoa	Livingston	Mich.	Route 12,824
Gr'd Mound	Thurston	Wash.	T. Supplied from
			Tumwater.
G's Basin	Lancaster	Neb. T.	Supplied from
			Weeping Water.
Jefferson	Winona	Minn.	Supplied from
			Utiros.
Kookin Jun.	Adams	Ill.	Route 11,917
Kingsbury	La Porte	Ind.	Supplied from
			La Porte.
La Grande	Baker	Oregon	Sup. f. Walla- Walla, Wash. T.
Landmark	Howard	Mo.	Supplied from
			Fayette.
Lawton	Orange	N. Y.	Route 1,424
Little Rock	Jefferson	Mo.	Supplied from
			Kennick.
Mattole	Camden	Cal.	Route 14,852
Mill Bluff	Camden	Mo.	Route 10,599
Mosher	McLean	Ill.	Route 11,611
Nottingham	Cuyahoga	Ohio	Route 9,145
Poa Yang	Lalayette	Mo.	Route 10,572
Pond Grove	Benton	Ind.	Route 12,148
Rock House	Buchanan	Mo.	Supplied from
			Easton.
Roscerans	Manitowoc	Wis.	Supplied from
			Manitowoc.
R'nd Valley	Plumas	Cal.	Supplied from
			Taylor's Ranch.
Santa Ynes	S. Barbara	Cal.	Route 12,592
Shamrock	Callaway	Mo.	Route 10,450
Shawnee	Johnson	Mo.	Route 11,855
Union Star	De Kalb	Mo.	Route 10,625
Veri. Fallo	Gr'wood	Kansas	Route 14,220
W. G. O're	Kent	R. I.	Supplied from
			Wren Greenwich.
W. Ham'gh	Erie	N. Y.	Route 1,302
Willow Prairie	Wash'n	Me.	Route 86
Willow Prairie	Calumet	Wis.	Route 10,847
Wood	Levy	Ohio	Route 11,233
Wrightdale	Morgan	Ill.	Route 11,886
Wrightdale	Lancaster	Pa.	Route 2,278

*Reestablished.

DISCONTINUED.

In the annexed List will be found the names of the nearest offices to which matter for those having been discontinued, should be sent.

Albrightville, Carbon, Pa., nearest office Hickory Run.

Arizona, Dona Ana, N. Mex., San Francisco, Cal. Athens, Sibley, Minn., nearest office Henderson.

Arling, Richardson, Neb. T., near. of Middleboro.

Bloomington, Polk, Oregon, nearest office Corvallis.

Borodino, Wayne, Mich., nearest office Plymouth.

Brockenridge, Tombs, Minn., near. of Alexandria.

Bridgeport, Jackson, Iowa, nearest office Mayquott.

Bunker Hill, Butler, Ohio, nearest office Rely.

Caiker's Store, Pulaski, Ky., nearest office Waterloo.

Codorus, York, Pa., nearest office Jefferson Station.

Davisburg, York, Pa., nearest office York.

Dixon, Dixon, Neb. T., near. office Vermilion, D. T.

Essex, Kaukaee, Ill., nearest office Union Hill.

Estel Flat, Carter, Ky., nearest office Olive.

Farmer's Grove, Fillmore, Minn., Chatfield.

Farmington, Dickinson, Kan., near. of Lamb's Point.

Forest Oak, Montgomery, Md., near. of Middleboro.

Fort Henry, Randolph, Mo., near. office Huntsville.

Fresno City, Fresno, Cal., nearest office Visalia.

Green Bay, Clark, Iowa, nearest office Oceola.

Harlem, New York, N. Y., nearest office New York.

Hansville, New York, N. Y., near. office New York.

Hazleton, Sarpy, Neb. T., nearest office Bellevue.

Holman, Dearborn, Ind., nearest office Manchester.

Hopewell, Macon, Ill., nearest office Decatur.

Industry, Scotland, Mo., nearest office Memphis.

Inverness, Columbiana, Ohio, near. of Salinesville.

Isabella Centre, Isabella, Mich., n. of Isabella; City.

Kings's Bridge, New York, N. Y., near. of New York.

Kings's Bridge Park, New York, N. Y., n. of N. Y.

Leesburgh, Harrison, Ky., nearest office Cynthiana.

Manhattanville, New York, N. Y., near. of New York.

Milford, Brown, Minn., nearest office New Ulm.

Mill Creek, Fulton, Ohio, nearest office Gorham.

Montain, Montain, Mich., near. office Greenville.

Nevada, Yernon, Mo., nearest office Fort Scott, Kan.

Oreida, Wasco, Minn., nearest office Wilton.

Pequaback, Litchfield, Conn., near. office Litchfield.

Pond Creek, Wood, Va., nearest office Bellevue.

Pond Creek Mills, Knox, Ind., near. of Lovely Dale.

Providence, Lucas, Ohio, nearest office Gilead.

Raven Creek, Harrison, Ky., near. of Westmington.

Redman, Tama, Iowa, nearest office Willing.

Ridge Road, Allen, Ind., nearest office Hamberlin.

Riffe's X Roads, Lawrence, Ky., nearest office Louisa.

St. Nicholas, Atchison, Kan., nearest office Atchison.

Shannon, Muskingum, Ohio, near. of Frazerburg.

Sol's Temple, Livingston, Ky., near. of Smithland.

Solo, Monroe, Wis., nearest office Dome.

Superior, Wabasha, Mich., near. of Plymouth.

Taylor Hill, Grundy, Iowa, near. of New Hartford.

Wailonia, Trigg, Ky., nearest office Cadiz.

Washington Heights, New York, N. Y., n. of N. Y.

Whiteland Mills, Belmont, Ohio, n. of Armstrong's Mills.

Wheeling, Yernon, Mo., nearest office York.

Yorkville, New York, N. Y., nearest office New York.

NAMES CHANGED.

Anador, Franklin, New York to North Bangor.

Byanville, Charleston, Mo. to Westville.

Elliottville, Jefferson, Ohio, to McCoy's Station.

Pittman, Adams, Ill. to La Prairie.

Randolph's Landing, Meigs, Ohio, to Reelsville.

Richland, Richland, Ohio to Blitch.

Whitetsville, Racine, Wis. to Thompsonville.

Presidential Appointments.

Belvidere, Boone, Ill. J. Nelson Rockway.

Gen's Falls, Warren, N. Y. Carlos Morgan.

Holyoke, Hampshire, Mass. Charles B. Prescott.

Place, Berkshire, Mass. Eliphath Wright.

Placeville, El Dorado, Cal. Oscar F. Greeley.

Office Re-opened in Seceded States.

Donaldsonville, Ascension, La.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Brandy Camp, Elk, Pa. Mrs. L. A. Little.

East Windham, Cumberland, Me. Miss Jane M. Allen.

Fairview, Randolph, Ind. Mrs. Sarah Stetson.

Grandy Centre, Grundy, Iowa. Miss Sophia Severance.

Kinza, Warren, Pa. Mrs. Maria M. Fowell.

Lina, Stephenson, Ill. Mrs. Mary J. Davis.

Lacrosse, Knox, Ohio. Miss Mary C. Balch.

North Barton, Tioga, N. Y. Mrs. Catharine M. Reed.

Norliport, Wapshaw, Wis. Miss Carrie F. Brown.

Nama, Park, Ind. Mrs. Eliza Hagar.

Oro, Lebanon, Pa. Mrs. Mary M. Ly.

Stewartville, De Kalb, Mo. Mrs. Alzona D. Dorn.

Sylvan Dale, Hancock, Ill. Mrs. Fannie O. Sigmon.

Trant Bridge, Allegany, New York. Miss Fiddis E. Zenas.

Zenas, Jennings, Ind. Miss Mary C. Rayborn.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters (including those for foreign countries) prepaid, addressed to those written by officers of the government, addressed to the department with which they are connected, and on official business, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, prepayment in money being prohibited.

All drop letters must be prepaid, at the rate of two cents per half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, by postage stamps.

The single rate of postage on all domestic mail letters throughout the United States is three cents per half ounce, with an additional rate of three cents for each additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce. The former ten cent (Pacific) rate is abolished.

Rates of letter postage between offices in the United States, and to and from Canada and other British North American Provinces.

To and from British N. A. Provinces, for distance not over 3,000 miles, 10 cts. For any distance over 3,000 miles, 15 cts.

For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever.

Daguerotypes, when sent in the mail, are to be charged as letter postage.

Postmasters are authorized to pay for each letter addressed to the United States by any sea-going vessel from a foreign port, (not carrying the mail), two cents, and for each letter addressed to the United States brought by mail vessel, on inland waters, (not carrying the mail), or brought coastwise from one domestic port to another, one cent; but to entitle the carrier to such payment the letters must be promptly delivered to the post office upon arrival. At the United States post office, where letters are to be charged with double rates of postage, to be collected at the office of delivery: that is to say, six cents for the single weight if mailed, and four cents the single weight if delivered at the office; but stamps at such double rate of postage, no additional charge will be made. If only partly prepaid by stamps, double the unpaid balance will be charged and collected on delivery.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

Postage on Daily Papers to subscribers, when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, per quarter (three months), 35 cts. Six times per week, " 15 "

For Tri-Weekly, " 30 "

For Semi-Weekly, " 10 "

For Weekly, " 5 "

Weekly Newspapers (one copy only) sent by the publisher to actual subscribers within the county where printed and published, free.

POSTAGE PER QUARTER (to be paid quarterly or yearly in advance) on Newspapers and Periodicals sent to actual subscribers in any part of the United States.

Monthly, not over 4 oz., and not over 8 oz., 12 cts. over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 15 cts.

Quarterly, not over 4 oz., and not over 8 oz., 3 cts. over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 6 cts.

Religious, Educational, and Agricultural Newspapers of small size, issued less frequently than once a week, and sent in packages to one address, at the rate of one cent for each package not exceeding four ounces in weight, and an additional charge of one cent is made for each additional four ounces or fraction thereof, the postage to be paid quarterly or yearly in advance.

Newsletters may pay the postage on their packages of newspaper and periodicals as received, at the same rate that actual subscribers thereto pay in advance.

Publications issued without disclosing the office of publication, or containing a fictitious statement thereof, must not be forwarded by postmasters unless prepaid at the mailing office at the rates of postage on newspapers and periodicals as received.

POSTAGE ON TRANSMITTED PRINTED MATTER.

Books, not over 4 oz. in weight to one address, 4 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 8 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 12 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 16 cts.

Circulars, not exceeding three in number, to one address, 2 cts.; over three and not over six, 4 cts.; over six and not over nine, 6 cts.; over nine and not exceeding twelve, 8 cts.

On MISCELLANEOUS MAILABLE MATTER, (embracing all kinds of manuscripts, public address, books, book manuscripts, and proof-sheets, whether corrected or not, maps, prints, engravings, sheet music, blanks, flexible patterns, samples and sample cards, photographs, paper, letter envelopes, postal envelopes or wrappers, maps, paper, plain or ornamental, photographic representations of different types, seals, cuttings, imbis, rods, and sions), the postage, to be prepaid by stamps, is, on one package to one address, not over 4 oz. in weight, 2 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 4 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 6 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 8 cts.

All mail matter not sent at letter rates of postage, except newspapers and periodicals, printed matter, and other printed matter, and all other mail matter except seals, must be so wrapped or enveloped with open sides or ends as to enable the postmaster to examine the package without destroying the wrapper; otherwise such packages must be tied with letter postage. No communication, whether in writing or in print, can be sent with any seals, cuttings or sions, maps, engravings, or other matter, unless the postage upon the separate payment of postage upon each separate matter at the established rates.

Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be remailed without being chargeable with postage.

When names of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office directed to one address, and the names of the club of subscribers to which they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance, shall be handed to the postmaster, he shall deliver the same to their respective owners; but this does not apply to weekly newspapers which circulate free in the county where printed and published.

Weekly newspapers and all other printed matter to the British North American Provinces, although sent from counties bordering on the line, are chargeable with the same rates as when sent to any point in the United States.

Postmaster must be prepaid by stamps.

But if it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or short-paid, the unpaid postage must be collected on delivery at double the prepaid rate.

Great neglect exists in the strict quarterly prepayment of postage on printed matter sent to regular subscribers. No such paper should be delivered, unless it is either prepaid at the mailing office, or at the delivery office, for at least a quarter. If not so prepaid, postmasters must collect postage on each copy as on transient matter. If they fail, they will be charged with the full postage due, and in clear cases removed from office for neglect.

To inclose or conceal a letter or other thing (except bills and receipts for subscription in, or to write or print anything, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

Any communication, whether by printing, writing, marks, or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, other than the name and address of the person to whom it is in sent, and the date of publication, and the name of the publisher, or letter postage.

Time of Closing Mails at the New York Post Office.

East Mail	5:00 A. M.
" "	1:00 P. M.
" "	6:30 P. M.
Erie Mail (Way)	5:00 A. M.
" "	2:00 P. M.
" "	3:30 P. M.
Freehold and Keyport	2:00 P. M.
Long Island	5:00 A. M.
" "	2:00 P. M.
Newport and Fall River	4:00 P. M.
New York Central R. R.	3:00 P. M.
North Mail	5:00 A. M.
" "	2:00 P. M.
" "	3:30 P. M.
South	5:00 A. M.
" "	4:30 P. M.
" "	10:00 P. M.
On SUNDAY all mails close at 1 1/2 P. M.	

Mails are Due at New York Post Office.

NORTH—Due 7:00 A. M.; 10:35, 4:45, and 9:00 P. M.
SOUTH—Due 5:15 A. M.; 12:30 P. M.; 6:30 P. M., and 10:40 P. M.
EAST—Due (Fall River) 7 A. M.; Railroad, (Way) 10:45 A. M.; (Boston Express), 5:30 A. M.; 5:30 P. M., and 11 P. M.
WEST—Due 10:30 A. M.; and 9:30 P. M.

Post Office Hours.

The post office opens at 7:30 A. M., and closes at 7:30 P. M. A night clerk is in attendance for the delivery of letters, when called for at any hour

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. III. No. 11.

NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1863.

WHOLE No. 35.

The International Postal Commission.

The International Postal Commission, which met at Paris on the 11th of May, and continued in session until the 8th of June, was attended by delegates from the postal administrations of Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Spain, the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, the Hawaiian Islands, Switzerland, and the Hanseatic cities. Their deliberations were held at the General Post Office in Paris, and were presided over by M. Vandal, Postmaster General of France. The subject of various improvements and reforms in international postal relations was discussed in an earnest but generally amicable spirit, and as the final result of their labors, the commission have, among others, adopted the following general principles as being adapted to facilitate postal relations between nations, and to form the basis of International Conventions for the regulation of these relations:

Wherever it is possible, the prepayment of postage upon ordinary letters should be at the option of the sender; but in case of special prepayment, and letters must bear a moderate additional charge. Letters insufficiently prepaid by the postal stamps of the dispatching country must be rated as unpaid, deducting however the value of the stamps affixed. Registered letters, whether with or without declaration of value, must in all cases be prepaid to destination.

International correspondence of all kinds, duly prepaid to destination, shall not be charged with any additional rate whatever on delivery.

The rates upon international correspondence shall be established according to the same scale of weight in all countries.

The metrical decimal system, being that which best satisfies the demands of the postal service, shall be adopted for international postal relations, to the exclusion of every other system.

The single rate upon international letters shall be applied to each standard weight of fifteen grammes (about half an ounce), or fractional part of it.

The single rate upon corrected proof-sheets, upon written documents not of the nature of letters, and upon samples of merchandise, (including stamps) shall be applied to each standard weight of 40 grammes or fractional part thereof, to one address.

Registered letters containing declared value shall be rated with a charge in proportion to the amount of the declared value, in addition to the postage and to the fixed charge applicable to the other class of registered letters.

In case of loss of a registered letter without declared value, and in case of loss or spoliation of a registered letter with declared value, each office shall be held responsible for acts upon its own territory, and in the service for which it has received a premium of insurance. Fifty francs should be allowed to the sender of an unvalued registered letter lost, and for a valued registered letter, so much of the declared value as shall have been lost or abstracted.

Wherever intermediate transit charges render it practicable, the rates upon international correspondence should be the same, by whatever routes the mails may be conveyed.

Correspondence reforwarded by reason of a change of residence of the person addressed shall not, on that account, be liable to a supplementary charge in favor of offices interested in the postage previously secured.

Registered letters addressed to persons who have departed for a foreign country not interested in the postage prepaid shall be forwarded to the new residence of the person addressed, charged with additional postage, and with a supplementary registration fee, to be paid on delivery.

As high transit charges upon correspondence present an insurmountable obstacle to the establishment of an international system of correspondence upon conditions advantageous to the public, the transit charge for each country shall never be higher than one-half of the interior rate of the transit country; and for countries of small territorial extent this transit charge shall be even less.

The cost of sea conveyance claimed by one country from another shall in no case be higher than the rate charged upon its own correspondence by the country by whose vessels the conveyance shall be effected.

It is desirable that postal administrations having accounts with each other should serve as intermediaries for the transmission of sums of money from one country to another by means of international money-orders, whenever this can be effected without conditions disproportionate to the advantage resulting from it.

In the adjustment of uniform postal rates, the greatest possible number of countries should be included in the same zone, and subject to the same rate.

Free conveyance to its official communications with other postal administrations should be granted to each postal administration.

There should be a class of letters denominated "agents," for delivery by express messengers, for which a special supplementary charge shall be paid.

Various other recommendations were adopted, for which we have not room, but the above comprise the most important.

The President of the Convention, in announcing that the programme for the deliberations had been concluded, addressed the Convention, in which he said that he felt authorized to say that he expressed the feelings of the entire Conference in making grateful acknowledgments to the Government of the United States for having initiated this Congress, and begged that this assurance might be conveyed to the United States Government by its delegate, Hon. Joux A. Kasson, who, before the adjournment, thought it proper, in view of the expression of thanks to the United States and as a matter of etiquette, to make a short speech at the conclusion of the proceedings.

The remarks of Mr. Kasson were as follows: Mr. President and Messieurs—At the conclusion of our conference, I cannot fail to acknowledge, on the part of the United States, the respectful attention of your several Governments to its propositions, and the lively interest which you have manifested in the objects of this resolution. From conflicting attachments to local systems and to local regulations, it was expected that difficulties would arise. These have been fewer than was expected. Obstacles to uniformity, simplicity and cheapness in international postal intercourse were known to exist. Their existence gave occasion to this congress. You have done much to remove them, much more than our fears permitted us to anticipate. Let us not forget, Messieurs, the extent of the interests involved, in some degree, in our enterprise. The mails carrying these orders which create foreign commerce, sustain the commercial marine, and aid largely in the development of interior industry. They exchange the missions which are so necessary to the interests

of family, of kindred, and of friendship, and upon which so much of the happiness of our race depends. They diffuse the printed elements of civilization, progress and intelligence. In each of these ways, they serve to break down the useless barriers which ignorance and non-intercourse formerly interposed between nations. They are the initiators of a double condition of international peace and prosperity. To facilitate those great results, while, at the same time, we promote the immediate convenience of the public—this has been our mission. We represent in these relations over four hundred millions of people, embracing the most highly civilized and the most industrious populations of the globe. Although we have to regret the absence of some expected associates, we still represent, in its postal relations, at least nine-tenths of the commerce of the world, and nine-tenths of the correspondence of the world. To arrange this, in its foreign relations, upon a simple, uniform, and not expensive basis, is indeed an object worthy of earnest and persevering effort on the part of the best minds of each country. Let us hope, gentlemen, that in returning to our respective Governments, we shall not cease to remember the grandeur of this object, and its intimate relations with the happiness and prosperity of mankind. The enlightened liberality of spirit and the comprehensive views illustrated in this Conference, give good reason to hope that we shall hereafter steadily approximate the result so much desired by all. Heartily acknowledging Monsieur le President, the wisdom, the impartiality, and the courtesy by which your Presidency of this Conference has been so much distinguished, I pray that these acknowledgments which I make very sincerely, may find a place in the records of our transactions.

Swindling by Mail.

We have heretofore taken occasion to warn our readers against the operations of various rascals, who have made use of the mails as a medium for swindling in different ways; but there is one form of fraud practised by this means which we believe we have not yet exposed—we allude to the *bogus lottery* swindle. The mode of operation is as follows:

Some needy and unprincipled seamp, (calling himself William P. Hunter, for instance—though the name is always fictitious, and of no importance), sends through the mail a large number of sealed circulars, addressed to postmasters of small offices, and others, throughout the country, each enclosing a ticket (all bearing the same number—1476, for instance) for a share in a "grand distribution of prizes by the National Art Union Association, to be drawn (at Churubusco, N. Y., for instance) on Wednesday, July 8th, 1863." These tickets are sent out about June 1st, and the accompanying circular reads somewhat as follows:

"Sir—I take the liberty of sending you a ticket for the grand distribution, etc. There are 2,000 prizes, amounting to \$20,000. Should you wish to try your luck, you can forward me the price of the ticket, which is \$5, and you will receive the certificate of the managers, Wright, Gordon & Co, without which no ticket is good. All remittances mailed on or before the day of drawing will be good, and the prizes paid if drawn, etc.

Yours,
Wm. P. Hunter."

Of course, very few persons are foolish enough to bite at this bait—nor is it intended that they should; the sending of the tickets and circulars is only the preliminary step in the swindle. On the day of the drawing, another circular is issued by Mr. H. containing an official account of the drawing, by which it appears that No. 1476 (or whatever the number on the tickets previously sent may be) has drawn a prize of \$200. This is sent to each of the recipients of the first circular, accompanied by a written letter from the benevolent Hunter, after this fashion:

"Sir—You will perceive that your ticket has drawn a prize of \$200, but as you have not paid for it, you cannot obtain it except in this way: Write me a letter, enclosing \$5, and date it on the day of the drawing. I will take it on the mails, and they will pay the prize, which I will forward to you, less 15 per cent. My reason for wishing you to obtain the prize is, that if you let it be known among your neighbors (which I expect you to do) that you have won \$200, I can sell a great many tickets among them for the next drawing," etc.

Hundreds of gudgeons rush into this trap, eager to clutch the "\$165 net" which is thus temptingly held out to them. Mr. "Hunter" pockets their greenbacks, and then modestly retires to enjoy the fruit of his labors, while the lucky holders of "No. 1476" await the arrival of their prizes, until the fear that there is "some mistake" ripens into the certainty that they have been "sold." It is scarcely necessary to add that there is no lottery, no prizes, no money, no managers, "no nothing" genuine in the matter, except genuine rascality.

ALBANY POST OFFICE.—We must apologize to our friends in charge of the Albany post office, for neglecting until now to mention the very great improvements resulting from the late alterations in that establishment. For many years past, we have thought the postal accommodations quite unworthy of such a city, and were fully of the belief that nothing short of quitting the shapeless concern altogether, for some other more suitable quarters, would answer the purpose. But the enterprise and ingenuity of Mr. Dawson, the popular postmaster, have been brought into requisition most successfully in remodeling the premises, and producing an office which for beauty and convenience could hardly be surpassed. We congratulate him and the Albany public upon these very creditable and much desired improvements.

The Ideal London Postman.

One of the saddest experiences to which human nature is liable is that of the gradual or sudden dissipation of certain fond delusions in which we have long indulged—the destruction of some cherished ideal, hurled from the lofty pedestal on which our romantic imagination had elevated it, by the ruthless hand of some grim and uncompromising iconoclast of a fact. The rude conflict between the Actual and the Ideal, beginning in infancy, grows fiercer with advancing years, nor ceases until death casts his grisly truncheon between the combatants, and hushes the strife forever. The sage and the moralist agree that "the world is all a deceiving show," and that the whole generation of poets aver that they, "from childhood's hour have seen their fondest hopes decay." It is the common lot of humanity. And yet, who learns wisdom by experience in this respect? As our idols of the imagination go down one after another, the shock of each such calamity is as unexpected, and as hard to bear, as when the first gorgeous bubble which boyish fancy had blown, burst and resolved itself into the prosaic soap-suds in which it had birth. Such a shock we have lately received, by the swift annihilation, at a single blow, of our ideal conception of the London Penny Postman!

Imagination (assisted by the descriptions of English literature) pictured him, clad in neat scarlet coat, and wearing his badge proudly as an honorable distinction, issuing at early morn from the "General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand," swiftly flying from door to door, winking the echoes with his well known double knock, delivering unheard of numbers of letters through a miraculously brief space of time—prompt, quick, honest, temperate, faithful—in short, with scarce a trace of human weakness, save perhaps such as was betrayed in an occasional hasty and pardonable flirtation with the prettiest of the housemaids on his route, (one of whom he eventually marries, in a desperate hurry, between two deliveries.) And then, on Sundays, (we thought), relaxing his rapid pace of week-days, he walks soberly "to church, with meek and unaffected grace," eschewing the company of evil ones, avoiding the excess of the gin palace and the cider cellars, and behaving in all respects, as the tombstones say, as becomes "a kind husband, a tender father, and an exemplary citizen," until, when old age came on, and his stiffening limbs could no longer bear him on his nimble rounds, he passed the remnant of his days, supported by an ample pension from a grateful government, in reflecting with virtuous satisfaction on the events of a life of duty faithfully performed. Such was the London Penny Postman, as imagined by us, and as painted by certain amateur "postal reformers," ardent admirers of the "English system."

Let our readers fancy, then, with what mingled anguish, horror and surprise we encountered, in a London missionary magazine, the following paragraph:

"It may be well to state that the number of letter carriers employed in London and the suburban districts is 2,000; and the increase of crime among them seeming to call for some Christian effort on their behalf, a missionary was appointed to labor among them in October, 1851, under the superintendence of the London City Mission. He visits the offices at all hours of the day, sometimes commencing as early as five o'clock, and thus, during the intervals of business, is enabled to offer tracts and have short conversations with both letter carriers and sorters, many of whom he afterwards visits in their homes."

Missionaries! tracts! Missionaries to these peripatetic epitomes of all the virtues? Is it then true? Must the postman of our fond fancy be lowered such an infinite number of pangs, to such a level that he must have missionaries sent to him as to a Fejee Islander, and be supplied with tracts and "moral pocket handkerchiefs" like a native of Borrioboola-Gha? Alas! we fear that it is too true—that the actual London Penny Postman is after all but a fellow-mortal, subject to mortal failings and peccadilloes, and even capable, as the above statement seems to assume, of "crime." And so the grand ideal Postman vanishes forever from our sight, nor, we fear, will the combined influences of missionary effort and tract distribution be able to restore again the illusion so cruelly destroyed.

This is, unfortunately, not the first time that we have been obliged to produce, from English journals, evidence to prove that the "superiority of the English system" in postal matters exists rather in the realm of the Ideal than in that of the Actual: we have repented from the London Times articles which denote alarming looseness in many of the crews of the machine which some on this side the water would fain persuade us is a model of perfection; and if we have many more such exposures as the above, we shall be inclined to say of the "English system," in the slightly altered language of Dogberry, "It is proved already that thou art a humbug, and it will go high to be thought so, presently."

The postage charge on circulars to Cuba is two cents each, or the same rate in case three are enclosed to one address—precisely similar to the domestic rate.

Trials of a P. M.

A postmaster sends us the following amusing account of his official experience during the first few days of the operation of the new postal law. He seems to have rather enjoyed the "scene of confusion and creature complaints" which is always the temporary result of a change in postal matters, however beneficial it may ultimately be. We trust that by this time the irate public of B—t have become more reconciled to the new order of things:

B—t, N. Y., July 4th, 1863.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL:

DEAR SIR—My "Complaint Book" is ready, and now, like a patient disciple of "Isaac," I am waiting for bites. I could have had it full already, had I taken down all the complaints that have been made here since the "New Law" took effect. The Department very wisely limited the boundaries of complaint to the reports of letters lost or strayed, otherwise postmasters and their clerks would have their time fully occupied with this new feature of the postal service.

The New Law went into effect, at this office, very early on the morning of the 1st of July, very much to the surprise of many who "guessed they were good for five cents," who "always pay their postage," who "can pay for a dozen post offices, and have money left," who left their "change at home, supposing they were good for ten cents for a day or two." To all such the New Law was a perfect leveler of distinctions. Within my glass stockade, loop-holed for letters instead of muskets, I resisted, for one day at least, the onset of my poorly-armed assailants, with no other weapon than the law—"Thou shalt not deliver to any person a paper or letter until the quarter's postage is paid." I am proud to report, officially, that I outfought the enemy completely, and at night had full possession of the field, with a very trifling loss to editors, and, I trust, none at all to the Department.

I have demonstrated to my entire satisfaction, that so far as living up to the law in the collection of postage is concerned, a good General will make the war "short, quick and decisive." Now I write you in the firm belief that you are the postmaster's friend. I want you to stand by me, until I am proved guilty of the charges that have been made against me.

A crazy woman has written the Department that I have cheated her out of five cents in making change. An old gentleman says he will "sue me," because I failed to put a paper in his box that was intended for him, though plainly addressed to somebody else—"I should have known by the looks of the wrapper that the paper was his." Another swears that I am "a small pattern," because he is worth \$10,000, and I would not let him take his paper, "when he promised to send down the five cents the very next day." Another says he "will never take another paper or letter from this office, but will go home and collect his bills in advance, and see how they will like that."

One man swore that he would report me for collecting postage on daily papers published in the country—"he had read the law, and knew they were free." Another man says the Government is all going to pieces, because it don't make postmasters do as they agree. He "paid two shillings for a box twenty years ago, with the positive understanding that he was always to have a box, and never pay any more." Some, who live ten miles out, are down on me, because I don't keep the office open all day Sunday, so they can get their letters if they happen to come to town to meeting. The above are only a few of the complaints, but enough, perhaps, to give you a little idea of how I stand in the estimation of my persecuted and involuntary patrons.

I don't want to be turned out in consequence of them, without a fair hearing, and I want you to show up to the Department my defence to these "complaints" in the Mail, if I am obliged to answer.

J. W. A. P. M.

NOT QUITE DEMORALIZED.—An ex-post office clerk writes as follows to one of his old associates, who still persists lifting a mail bag to shouldering a musket:

"I am only a high private, not a man of authority, having soldiers under me, who can say to this man go, and he goeth, and if he goeth not, straightway smiteth himself in trouble. Yet I think I am somewhat demoralized. 'Tis not an uncommon thing for me to drink whiskey when it can be had, which is very seldom, not to cure home sickness as is done by an officer in an adjoining tent, but because the water is decidedly bad. I wear a blue flannel shirt, the luxury of white linen or even paper collars being unknown here. Heavy high top boots, long innocent of blacking, adorn my feet. I support a gay roundabout jacket, very much like the style of those I used to wear in my schoolboy days. My hair is cut close to my head, except as we used to see the heads of Irish boys leuding on the docks from emigrant ships. An often found washing and mending my clothes—have cooked the meals for our mess time and time again—can use a spade throwing up breastworks as well as the best of them. I read yellow-covered literature, play cards with the boys, smoke a clay pipe, and have not seen my face in a glass for months. Have gained eighteen pounds, and am some very near-sighted several times. Yet I like a soldier's life—There is a kind of fascination about it, and in fact I was never happier in my life. It would require a wide stretch of imagination to realize the fact that the gay cavalier who not long ago was so much admired by the ladies and envied by the men, and this individual, are one and the same."

Sec. 28 of the new postal law, in regard to returning letters uncolled for, on which the writer has endorsed such a request, has been so construed as to allow the same privilege to senders of pamphlets and other mailable matter, who express a willingness to pay return postage on the same.

The Neatest Swindle Yet.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.—WE WILL SEND, ON receipt of 25 cents, a beautiful Steel Engraving of Gen. Jackson, the Hero of New Orleans. Address C. B. & Co., Elizabethport, N. J.

The above advertisement recently appeared in the New York Herald, under the head of "Pine Arts." It is a most plausible and innocent-looking announcement, and one which few would suspect as intended to effect the extraction of postage currency from the pockets of the unwary. Yet we regret to state that such is the case. The hallowed memory of Old Hickory has been desecrated by a Jeremy Diddler, and the affectionate veneration in which he is held by a grateful people has been taken advantage of by an impetuous vagabond to fraudulently replenish his collapsed porte-monnaie. But let us not do injustice, even to the unworthy. The patrons of "C. B. & Co.," did each receive a "beautiful steel engraving"—not of the largest size, it is true, but still an excellent work of art, and a capital likeness of the "Hero of New Orleans." So far, all was "on the square"—the only irregularity which a strict moralist could detect in the transaction being the fact that the "engraving" consisted of a specimen of the new two cent stamp which was issued on the 1st of Jul. Unfortunately for "C. B. & Co.," they are likely to find to their cost that the sale of postage stamps for a greater amount than the value expressed on their face, is one of the "fine arts" the practice of which is attended with disagreeable consequences, being forbidden, under heavy penalties, by Act of Congress.

Letter Addresses.

Uncle Sam's mail this letter will take, And leave it in Stamford, if there's no mistake; P. M., please give it to Jonathan Down, An inoffensive citizen of your good town. He will go to the office, perhaps looking grim, And ask you if there is a letter for him. "Yes, sir," you'll say, and this letter present—"Ah! yes, from a friend in Forthester 'tis sent." "Tis mine," he will say, and reach on his paw—Take the letter, thank you, and make for the door; While you quietly smile, for his face it grows darker, As he sees it a bill from his old friend, Parker.

In Illinois, the Golden State, This letter seeks an owner; In Henry County, as of late, At the U. S. in answer; Should it e'er reach that pleasant spot Within the world's great granary, Postmaster, I pray refuse it not To William Henry Flanery.

To ninth and market store for Patrick Sullivan Grocer to be forwarded to Mr. Donoghue for Denis Foley, America.

Miss B. Monahan, Pappin, Ct.

(Putnam was meant.)

Away down in Maryland, where slaves are bought and sold, In the U. S. General Hospital, Frederick City, I am told, There dwells a patriot, noble brave and true, Who fought nobly for his country, and her red, white and blue; His name is Francis Palmer, a New York volunteer, And it is with joy and pleasure I love from him to hear. So wait your way straight onward, o'er mountain, hill and dale, Until you reach the hero of this my simple tale.

Go forth, my little messenger—speed onward in a jiffy, And find a Western gentleman by the name of W. Steffy.

He lives in Indiana, in the county known as Wayne, And the town of Kalamazoo—oh! my gracious, what a pain!

Of a truth our Western people have a just and honest claim To be styled the *ne plus ultra* in selection of a name— With this *Kalo*—what d'ye call it—I believe my jaw I've broke, So I'll close by simply saying—letter, vanish just like smoke.

The following was written on a letter postmarked Cairo, Ill.:

Will the Devil, or some good postmaster, speed on this letter a little faster than it did one I received some time ago, for that was more nor two weeks coming from Zanesville to Cairo.

Mr. Emerson, of the Boston post office, sends us the following copies of directions upon letters which have recently passed through that office:

To Wm. Regan, married to Mary Coakly, to the care of Con. Murphy, No. 4 Main Street, Boston, Mass., No. America; or in the care of David Coakly, Regan's brother-in-law, in said place, to be forwarded to Mr. Regan, the above named. Haste.

Sending this letter to Dennis Mahoney from your only daughter Ellen you left here in Cork after you directing it to Daniel Brennan next to No. 2 Main Street Boston.

Daniel Buckley No. 20 Broad Street, Boston to be forwarded to Pat Sullivan there or elsewhere as I can learn West Coast Territory.

Timothy Brien, Hingham, Boston, State of Mass., to be forwarded to Con. Murphy, No. 2 Moon Street, to be forwarded from him to Thomas Kelley.

Ellen Brace & Co. So Ebenford Boston hole sale delers in mathes of ever description.

SWEAR THEM.—Now that Congress has adopted such stringent measures concerning the franking privilege, would it not be well, in view of the many former instances of abuse of that license by Congressmen—liberally supplying their friends with frank, &c.—to add to the oath administered on entering Congress, a few words binding them not only to support the Constitution, but also to obey strictly the laws in relation to franking.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1863.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York. Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. Holbrook, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

Prospects of the "Mail."

The many letters we receive from postmasters, containing the most flattering testimonials in regard to the usefulness and official value of the U. S. Mail, is, to say the least, very encouraging. The list of subscribers is steadily increasing, and although we have but little faith in some kinds of "medicines," still we hope yet to attain to such a relation between the Post Office Department and all the members of its large family of officials. We take it for granted, that what is useful in one post office as an auxiliary in the management of its business, must be equally so in all, as all are governed by the same laws and regulations, and under precisely similar responsibilities to the Department and the public. Could we mail a copy of this sheet, on the first day of each month, to all postmasters—its columns embracing all the information which the Department wishes to communicate to them—what uniformity in the discharge of official duty, and what convenience and economy would be the result. How to bring this about is another matter. But it is a comfort to believe that we are doing good as far as we go, and that we are going a little further at every monthly stride.

[OFFICIAL.]

Notice to Postmasters and the Public.

The increased registration fee of 20 cents established by the recent Postal Law, is not applicable to such registered letters mailed in the United States as are addressed to Prussia or any part of the German-American Postal Union by the Prussian closed mail; to Bremen by the Bremen mail; or to Canada; for the reason that our Postal Conventions with Prussia, Bremen, and Canada, respectively, adopt a registration fee of five cents for each registered letter posted in the United States and addressed to either of those countries.

But registered letters addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland are subject to the increased registration fee of 20 cents, the same as domestic registered letters, as the Postal Convention between the United States and the United Kingdom does not limit the amount of the registration fee to be collected in either country.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
Post Office Department, July 9, 1863.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, July 1, 1863.

The recent Postal Law which goes into operation to-day, having abolished the Pacific domestic letter rate of 10 cents, and established 3 cents as the single rate of postage upon all domestic letters transmitted in the mails of the United States, it is hereby ordered, that in future the single rate of international postage upon all letters exchanged between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, under the provisions of the Postal Convention concluded and signed at London on the 15th of December, 1849, shall be uniform at 21 cents, prepayment optional.

The change abolishes the 29 cent rate heretofore charged upon letters exchanged between the United Kingdom and California, Oregon, and Washington, and establishes a uniform international letter postage of 24 cents the single rate between the United Kingdom and all parts of the United States.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
FINANCE OFFICE, WASHINGTON, July 23, 1863.

Sir: Referring to your letter of the 10th instant, relative to the exchange by postmasters of such Government stamped envelopes as have been spoiled, by reason of erroneous direction, or from any other cause, prior to the use thereof as a cover for correspondence, I have to say, that when an application of this nature is made to a postmaster, he will first satisfy himself that the envelopes presented for exchange have not been so used; whereupon he may deliver to the holder postage stamps of equal value to the stamps impressed upon the envelopes. Thus the difference between the cost of postage stamps and stamped envelopes of similar denominations is the only loss to which the holder is subjected.

The postmaster should return the envelopes so received, separately from his account current, at the close of each quarter. The package containing them should be addressed to the Third Assistant P. M. General, and accompanied by a special letter.

Respectfully yours,
C. F. MACDONALD,
Acting 3d Assistant P. M. General,
J. HOLBROOK, Esq., New York.

Reduction of Postage to Egypt, in British Mail via Marseilles.

Notice has been given by the British Office that the combined British and French postage upon letters forwarded from the United Kingdom via Marseilles, to Egypt, was reduced on the 1st of July, instant, to a uniform rate of 6 pence (12 cents) for every quarter of an ounce or fraction of a quarter of an ounce.

In future, therefore, upon letters sent from the United States through the United States intended to be forwarded by way of Marseilles to any place in Egypt, except Alexandria, Cairo, or Suez, the following new rates of postage are to be levied and collected at the mailing office in the United States, viz.:

For a letter not exceeding 1/4 ounce in weight, 33 cts.
For a letter above 1/4 ounce, and not exceeding 1/2 ounce, 45 cts.
For a letter above 1/2 ounce, and not exceeding 3/4 ounce, 57 cts.
For a letter above 3/4 ounce, and not exceeding 1 ounce, 69 cts.
For a letter above 1 ounce, and not exceeding 1 1/4 ounces, 81 cts.
For a letter above 1 1/4 ounces, and not exceeding 1 3/4 ounces, 93 cts.

Letters for Alexandria, Cairo, or Suez, are liable to the same rates, but under existing arrangements they can only be prepaid to the extent of the United States postage (viz. 21 cents when the Atlantic sea conveyance is by a United States packet, and 5 cents when said conveyance is by a British mail packet), which postage is required to be prepaid.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, July 6, 1863.

Sir:—The fifth subdivision of the 42d instruction of the new Post Office Law is hereby amended, by striking out the word "twelve" and inserting "thirty-two" before the word "cents," so that it shall read as follows:—"The weight of packages of seeds, cuttings, roots and scions, to be franked, is limited to thirty-two ounces."

By order of the Postmaster General,
ALEX. W. RANDALL,
First Assistant Postmaster General.

POSTAGE TO THE SANDWICH ISLANDS, VIA SAN FRANCISCO.

We are requested to state that, hereafter, the United States postage charge upon letters addressed to the Sandwich Islands, and forwarded via San Francisco, for transmission thence to destination by private ship, will be 3 cents the single rate of half an ounce or under, prepayment required, being the United States domestic postage to San Francisco under the present Postal Law.

Upon letters received from the Sandwich Islands by private ship via San Francisco, the United States postage will be 8 cents the single rate, to be collected at the office of delivery.

Registration.

The 32d section of the New Law, relating to registered letters, involves but few changes in the former mode of registering, but those few are important, and should be strictly regarded by postmasters. The receipt which is to be signed by the party receiving a registered letter, must in all cases accompany such letter, and not be withheld, as is often done, until the following mail, to be sent with the return bill. Letters intended for foreign countries cannot be registered in the United States, except those for Great Britain and Ireland, (registry fee 20 cts.), all parts Germany and Canada, (5 cts.) and no return receipt should be sent with this class of letters for those places.

The design of the Department and Congress, in that part of the New Law, was to increase the safety of registered matter by providing additional checks and concentrating responsibility. Therefore it is expected of postmasters, and the public have a right to demand, that every rule should be rigidly observed at every point, from the receipt of the letter to its actual delivery. At the mailing office, the postmaster or a responsible clerk should always be able to make oath that a given registered package was not only deposited there and mailed, but that it was placed in the proper mail pouch at the moment of departure, and we could wish that the requirement of such an oath had been embraced in the law itself, to be applied in every instance of the alleged loss of such a package. So at the office of delivery. In a vast majority of offices, the responsibility could readily be confined to a single person, who alone should have the custody of registered letters and parcels, and in the largest offices, such subdivisions of mails or sections could be made as would secure nearly or quite as much care as in those of less importance.

It is yet to be determined how far a legal responsibility rests upon the head of a post office, in case of the actual loss of a registered letter, where the requirements of the law and instructions have not been fully complied with in the temporary custody of such valuable letter, when it cannot be traced beyond his hands or those of the person whom he has commissioned as such custodian. The new blank registry receipts will soon be distributed.

POSTAGE ON REGULAR NEWSPAPERS.—We have before us a number of inquiries respecting the mode, under the new law, by which postage is to be collected on newspapers addressed to regular subscribers, and passing through the mails. It appears to us that a careful perusal of Sec. 18 of the law, and the instructions thereon in the official pamphlet, furnishes full and intelligible information on this subject.

If a subscriber begins to take a paper at any time after the commencement of a regular quarter, he must pay quarterly rates for the balance of the then current quarter, and also for the full succeeding quarter. For example: Mr. Jones begins to take the New York Herald, by mail, on the 15th of August. The postage being 35 cents per quarter, a payment of 18 cents carries him to the 31st of September, and 35 cents more must be collected, at the same time, to cover the next regular quarter.

A postmaster cannot compel yearly payment in advance, although he can receive such payment if it is the choice of the citizen.

We are compelled to omit in this number several contributions to the MAIL. They will appear hereafter.

Franking.

Postmasters should endeavor to fully understand and carry into execution the exact requirements of the 42d section of the late Postal Act, and the instructions accompanying it in the official pamphlet.

Postmasters, Special and Route Agents, and Mail Contractors, can correspond with the Postmaster General, the First, Second and Third Assistants, and the Chief Clerk of the Department, on "official business," by writing or printing those words on the envelope of such communications, and also the signature of the writer. Postmasters can frank letters to each other, relating to post office business.

This covers the entire franking license of postmasters and other officers referred to.

Other parties, writing to postmasters on any subject, should not only prepay their postage, but, if they desire a reply, should enclose a stamp to pay the postage on the return letter. If, however, a letter should be received by a postmaster, an answer to which is required by the public interest, he may pay the postage on his letter and charge the amount in his account of expenses. This exception is meant to embrace answers to letters relating strictly to matters of public importance, such as robbery of the mail, or any other violation of the postal laws.

The decision of the Department in respect to mail matter addressed by Assessors and Collectors of Internal Revenue to their assistants, and by their assistants to the principals, is that all such matter must be prepaid by stamps. The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue can frank official matter and receive the same free, being properly certified, from any officer connected with and responsible to them.

CORRECTION.—The postmaster of Litchfield, Conn., points out an error in our last table giving the names of the offices to which matter intended for those having been discontinued should be sent. He informs us that Terryville is the nearest office to the one formerly at Pequotuck, instead of Litchfield, as set down in the published list. We obtain this list at the Department, monthly, and it may be considered reliable. And yet, in some instances, the local information of a postmaster is no doubt better than that supplied by the records of the Contract Office.

We therefore hope that postmasters will note and inform us of such errors as may occur.

REGISTERED PACKAGES.—In respect to registered letters, we would suggest that an ordinary post-bill, calling for a registered package by the word "Registered," or its initial "R," should be signed immediately with the name of the clerk or postmaster who opens the bundle of such ordinary or unregistered letters—that is, if such registered package actually arrives. If missing, the fact should be noted by the word "missing," and the proper initials signed thereto. This suggestion is in addition to the new instruction on the subject, paragraph 4 of Instruction No. 32, and is proposed as still another check to that provided by the present rule.

QUESTION.—"Does the name of an individual or firm, printed or embossed on a letter envelope, secure the return of the letter to the writer, without passing through the postal signature at Washington, in case it is uncalled for?"

ANSWER.—It does not, unless there is a written or printed request added to return it in any given contingency.—[Ed. MAIL.]

The recent riotous proceedings in this city produced for a day or two, considerable interruptions of the mails on some of the railroad lines running out of the city, particularly those relied on for the supply of New England and Northern sections. The Hudson river and Sound steamers, however, which have no contract with the Department, were made available in supplying the deficiency as far as possible. The mails for Boston, Providence, New Haven, Bridgeport, New London and Norwich, were among those sent by the boats for a few days.

The most serious interruption to the mails and the letter deliveries, occurred in the upper part of the city, in the districts supplied by carriers. In fact, in some of them no deliveries were made for two or three days, and in a few instances the carriers were violently assailed.

The case of Woodman, so long before the United States Court in Boston, was recently disposed of by his conviction and sentence to Dedham jail. He was found in possession of a bank check of a large amount, which had been originally mailed at St. John's, New Brunswick, and which he offered, with a forged endorsement, at one of the Boston banks. The difficulty in procuring the attendance of the proper witnesses from so great a distance, caused unusual delay in bringing the accused to a final trial. The case was prosecuted by N. G. Ordway, Esq., Special Agent of the P. O. Department.

All letters mailed at any post office to Harlem, Yorkville, Manhattanville, King's Bridge, King's Bridge Park, Harsenville and Washington Heights, N. Y., should be forwarded to New York city direct, as the offices mentioned above, (which are all on New York island,) were discontinued on the 1st July, and the whole island is now included in the delivery of the New York office.

We regret to perceive that Hon. Mr. ZEVELY, owing to continued ill health, has not yet returned to his post. During his absence, the duties of the Finance Office have been discharged by Doctor C. F. MACDONALD, Acting Third Assistant Postmaster General. Mr. Z.'s health, we are happy to learn, is improving.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN AND WITH SPECIAL AGENTS.—The Department decides that Special Agents can only correspond free on official business with the Postmaster General, his three Assistants, and the Chief Clerk of the Department. Their letters of every other description must be prepaid, even those addressed to each other or to postmasters. They are authorized, however, to charge all postages necessarily paid on post office business, which charge will be allowed in the settlement of their accounts.

Postmasters may correspond with Special Agents on strictly post office business, prepaying their letters, and charging the amount in the proper account of expenses.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL.—Postmasters are required by law to return all letters to writers upon which there is a written or printed request. Many high business houses of small capital cover one-third or one-half of their envelopes with an advertisement in large type of all they have to sell, and more too, and then, in an obscure corner, in the smallest type in use, a request to return if not called for. The natural result is, that many such are overlooked by postmasters, and sent to the Dead Letter office. In a short time, he has the mortification to have them returned, with a rap over the knuckles from the Department. Now if a letter is of enough importance to be returned, it should be endorsed in writing in a conspicuous place on the envelope.

CONVICTS' LETTERS.—When a letter arrives at a post office for a convict, in a town or city where a prison is located, it is taken to the office of the chaplain of the prison, where it is opened, and placed on file until Saturday of the week of its arrival. While on file, it is subject to the inspection of any officer of the prison who may have the curiosity to examine its contents. On Saturday morning it is conveyed to the shop where the prisoner to whom it is addressed labors. It is there examined by the keeper and frequently by the relief keeper, and at night, after labor is over, it is handed to the convict.

When a letter is sent by a prisoner it is subject to the inspection of the same persons, reversing the order. From the time it leaves the hands of the writer it is examined by several officers of the prison, including the chaplain's clerk, who envelopes and directs it, as he does all correspondence.

A postmaster in Maine sends us reasons why the requirement of the New Law, that all mail matter must be prepaid before delivery, is uncommonly embarrassing at his office, especially in relation to papers for regular subscribers, most of whom reside from one to seven miles distant, and receive their papers through the hands of any one of an obliging disposition who may chance to call at the post office. He asks if he cannot, in such an extreme case, answer the terms of the law by paying the postage in advance himself.

Most certainly. There is no law to prevent a postmaster or any one else from performing such generous acts toward delinquent newspaper subscribers. But he must actually pay the money into the government till, for a term not less than one quarter, and enter the credit in the proper account. The same privilege (?) would apply to transient printed matter and letters.

"THE MAIL BAGS AND THE FLAG."—Benjamin Johnson, Esq., for many years a resident of Vicksburg, Miss., and a thorough Union man, has been appointed by the Postmaster General a Special Agent of the Department, with instructions to proceed to Vicksburg to reopen the post office in that city. Mr. Johnson left Memphis, Tenn., a few days since for the purpose of fulfilling the mission confided to him. Before starting, he reminded us his subscription to the Mail.

Two individuals recently called at the New York post office, and inquired for letters which they alleged had been advertised for them. Search being made the letters could not be found, nor did the names appear in any advertised list; but the applicants were positive, and, producing the roll of drafted men which was published on Saturday, July 11, in some of the papers, they pointed triumphantly to their names and addresses! On being informed by the clerk of the real nature of the case, they departed—sadder and wiser men.

CIRCULARS.—There has been a falling off in the number of circulars mailed in New York and other large offices, since the two cent rate commenced, but the aggregate amount of postage holds good.

There has also been a perceptible decrease in the number of drop letters and transient newspapers.

It may be well to mention again, that two or three transient newspapers, or even more, may be sent to one address for two cents, provided the weight of the package does not exceed four ounces.

HARD ON THE POST OFFICES.—A County Treasurer out West, in writing to a citizen in this section who claims to have sent him some money for taxes, seems to have rather a poor opinion of the mails as a medium for the transmission of valuables. Hear him:

"I have not received said money nor any letter from you. I receive such letters almost every mail, and from all accounts there has been an awful amount of money extracted and stolen out of the mails the past winter and spring, and it is high time that such villainy was detected and punished. I think this trouble is all at some distributing office, as they have the best chance.

"You say you sent federal money. You should send draft on New York, for I tell you it is not safe to send currency through the mails these times. Are not the people of the United States, as a general thing, let loose to reactivity in these times? I begin to fear that the Devil will get the people."

Miscellaneous Information.

A batch of inquiries of more or less importance having been sent us by a postmaster, we referred the same to the First Assistant Postmaster General, and have received the following answers:

No. 1. To outfit newspapers to be mailed at the regular quarterly rates of postage, such papers must be sent from a known office of publication to actual subscribers.

2. News-dealers cannot be classed with publishers, in regard to mailing papers to subscribers; nor can they be permitted to send papers addressed to different individuals in the same package, not exceeding four ounces in weight, for two cents.

3. Any number of papers not exceeding four ounces in weight, may be sent to one address, at a prepaid postage of two cents.

4. All grades of "Photographic representations" on paper or other flexible material, may be sent at a prepaid postage of two cents for each four ounces unless they are enclosed in cases or boxes. When enclosed in cases or boxes, letter postage must be charged.

5. The 18th section of the new law requires that a full quarter's postage on regular newspapers and periodicals shall be paid before delivery. If paid at any other time than the beginning of a quarter, that is to say, on the 1st day of January, April, July, and October, it must be paid to the end of the next following quarter, or treated as transient matter. The law and regulation are both clear upon this point.

6. Miscellaneous printed matter (except circulars and books) may be sent in one package at a prepaid postage, not exceeding 4 ounces in weight, at a prepaid postage of two cents.

7. "The requirements of instruction No. 19, and the latter clause of No. 36," do not require any further account to be sent to the Department "than what the transcripts of the regular accounts of mails received and sent, and the blanks for regular and transient papers furnish." The modification required by the new law should be made in the headings of these blanks by postmasters, until the new forms are received. But the record prescribed by section 4 of the law, should be carefully kept in each post office.

It is not generally known that two cents covers the entire postage on a letter, without regard to weight, passing in the mails between certain offices in Canada and others in the United States, located at short distances from each other. These exceptions to the usual letter rates between the two governments are embraced in the postal treaty of 1856. And yet many correspondents most interested in this fact seem entirely ignorant of it, and have been in the habit of affixing ten cent stamps to this class of letters.

The following is a list of the offices referred to:

Between Saint St. Marie, Mich. & Saint St. Marie, Canada	"
" Port Huron " " Port Saruliu " " "	"
" Detroit " " Windsor " " "	"
" Black Rock, N. Y. " Fort Erie " " "	"
" Lewiston " " Queenstown " " "	"
" Youngstown " " Niagara " " "	"
" Cay's Vincent " " Kingston " " "	"
" Morrisstown " " Brockville " " "	"
" Ogdenburg " " Prescott " " "	"
" Pl. Covington " " " " " " "	"
" Derby Line, Vermont " " " " " " "	"

A Correction.

The New York Tribune having incorrectly attributed the authorship of the new post office law to Hon. Schuyler Colfax, that gentleman sets the matter right in the following letter:

To the Editor of the N. Y. Tribune.
Sir: A few weeks ago, an editorial in your paper, giving an analysis of the new postal bill, passed by the recent Congress, stated, in its concluding paragraph, that the public were indebted for it mainly to Judge Blair, Postmaster General, and myself. I should have corrected this at the time, but a severe domestic affliction prevented. Will you allow me even at this late day, but as a matter of justice, to say, without derogating from the praise you gave to Judge Blair, that the portion of credit attributed to me should be conferred on Judge Collamer, the Chairman of the Senate Post Office Committee, who introduced the bill into that body, and to the Hon. J. A. Kasson, late First Assistant Postmaster General, who gave so much time and attention to all its details. It was known in Congress as "Collamer's Bill," and so designated rightly. I but followed, in this case, where he led.
Yours truly,
SCHUYLER COLFAX.

It will be observed by the Postmaster General's Order on that subject, that postage on foreign letters mailed in the United States can be paid in the ordinary currency, and at the same rates as heretofore. The gold and silver (or its equivalent) requirement only applies to correspondence from the countries named in the Order arriving here unpaid. This is in answer to some inquiries by parties who evidently have not read with proper care the document referred to.

TAX LISTS, ETC.—Under the 24th section of the new law, all mailable matter wholly or partly in writing is subject to letter postage. Hence it follows that all tax lists, licenses, etc., filled up in manuscript, are clearly subject to letter postage, i. e., three cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof.

A young lady in Brooklyn, N. Y., belonging to a family of high respectability, has notified the postmaster of that place of her willingness to perform, for six months, the official duties of any one of his clerks who may volunteer, and pay over the salary for the benefit of the family of the absentee.

We frequently receive complaints of the non-receipt of the Mail by distant subscribers. In such cases we send the missing number, if requested. It is difficult to account for such failures, as great pains are taken to mail the papers regularly.

In the hurry of going to press, several provoking grammatical and other errors escaped notice in our last issue, until the paper was partially worked off. We shall try and render such things out of the question in future.

OBITUARY.—The papers announce the decease of Mrs. Colfax, wife of Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX, M. C., of Newport, R. I. Mrs. Colfax has been an invalid for some time past.

SOLD HIMSELF CHEAP.—A clerk in the Boston post office has recently been removed for mailing newspapers, etc., addressed to his friends at various points, and stamping them "paid."

Subscribers, whose subscriptions expire with the third volume of the MAIL, are reminded that the September number is the last of the volume.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letters.
Postage on Printed Matter.

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Postage on Letters.
Postage on Printed Matter.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letters.
Postage on Printed Matter.

TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.
Canada, N. Brunswick, Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. Newfoundland prepayment required.

Table listing countries and their corresponding postage rates for letters and printed matter. Includes entries for Acapulco, Aden, Algiers, Alexandria, and many others.

Table listing countries and their corresponding postage rates for letters and printed matter. Includes entries for Galatz, Gallipoli, Gambia, Gendarmes, Guatemala, and many others.

Table listing countries and their corresponding postage rates for letters and printed matter. Includes entries for Penang, Philippine Islands, Placentia, Prussia, and many others.

Table listing countries and their corresponding postage rates for letters and printed matter. Includes entries for Saxony, Serbia, Sicily, and many others.

*Pamphlets and periodicals two cents each, if not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if they exceed two ounces, to be collected in all cases in the United States.

The above Postage Tables have been examined and adopted by the Post Office Department, and are to supersede all others now in use.

Stations and Cities of the German-Austrian Postal Union, and Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Greece, Ionian Islands, &c., is sent from this office semi-weekly.

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UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. III. No. 12.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1863.

WHOLE No. 36.

An Amateur Official.

We have received for publication the following somewhat mysterious communication. We have heard of all sorts of philanthropic and disinterested enterprises, entered upon by those who have been willing to spend their time and fortunes for the good of others, and to promote some great reforms without the hope of personal advantage or the expectation of reward, at least in this life. It would seem that at last one individual of that stamp has hit upon a sort of secret, if not invisible, supervision over the interests of our postal department, and has already entered upon his labor of love. We rather like the idea, and yet our usual caution in official matters, increased somewhat by a vivid recollection of sundry impostures and confidence games heretofore too successfully played in this connection, leads us to suggest to postmasters and route agents especially, a proper degree of vigilance with respect to the visits of inquisitive strangers, whatever may be their ostensible designs in the pursuit of postal knowledge. This "mania for visiting post offices," to which our correspondent confesses, especially when taken in connection with his admitted partiality for "loose garments," (suggestive of capacious pockets,) fully justifies a word of caution to those having the custody of letters and mails:

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO,
August, 1863.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL.—"All aboard!" I heard the voice of the conductor, the short, snatched whistle of the engine, and the moving of the train, but I could not reach the cars without running very fast, and the heat was intense, so I philosophically resigned myself for the time being to my fate, and a seat in an airy corner of the depot, which soon resulted in a palmer mind and a cooled body. What a lovely place is a depot in a village, between trains! Twenty minutes after the departure of the cars I was the only human being to be seen. This seemed to accord with my feelings for a while, but by and by I began to grow a little uneasy—I adopted the Yankee mode of keeping myself company, by whittling sticks—but soon grew tired of it; cut and scraped my finger-nails, until there was no more work of that kind to do, and having positively nothing to read, either in my pocket or on the walls of the "gentlemen's saloon," I rose and walked to the door on the shady side of the building. I was not aware that I had company so near me, until I stepped out on the platform, but as I did I started a huge dog which lay stretched at full length along the floor, who with a bound and a yelp parted company, and fled up the road as if terror-stricken. Poor fellow, he need not have feared me! I had been here an hour and had two more to wait; time began to grow long and heavy; I was very thirsty, and no water; the thermometer was about ninety-five, and I disliked to venture out, so I suffered in silence, and would have suffered on, had not a man at that moment made his appearance at the door of the sunny side of the house with a stone jug in his hand, and a newspaper sticking in his vest pocket—for he was careless. Fearful that he might take me for a dangerous character, I hastened to tell him my situation, and wound up by asking him where I could get a drink of water and buy a newspaper. Placing his jug upon one of the seats and pointing significantly to it, he went out and soon returned with a pail of most excellent spring water, which I slightly diluted to prevent any bad effects, and felt quite refreshed. This Samaritan informed me that he was the postmaster in an adjacent village, that he was on his way to where he had been harvesting, and that he would be back before the train came in, and if I wanted to read a paper he had with him, I could do so until he returned. I thanked him, took the paper, and found it to be the "U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT."

I had never seen this paper before, but had heard of it, and was anxious to get hold of it; and now in this out-of-the-way place, and at a time when anything would be acceptable, your paper was doubly so. We are both engaged in the same line—looking after post offices—the only difference is, duty prompts you, while I may be regarded as a monomaniac on the subject. However, if you will give me the use of a small portion of the MAIL from time to time, I will endeavor to give you some experiences, which you may frame, if you please, and hang up as a mirror for postmasters to see themselves in.

I have for many years taken a rather singular interest in post offices, and the business connected therewith.

This, to the unthinking, may appear a strange taste, but to my mind it is quite as sensible a hobby as star-gazing like the astronomer, chipping stones, and delving among fossils like the geologically inclined, or tempting Providence by piercing the clouds in balloons, or cleaving the waters in diving-bells.

I indeed for me (I pretend to speak only for myself) it is far more sensible than either of the foregoing, for I am a quiet, contemplative gentleman, with an affection for loose garments

and wide-rimmed hats, to whom the din of battle, and the precise costume of the soldier, would be, to use a mild form of speech, annoying. Furthermore, I am—well there is nothing to be ashamed of in the fact—I am very stout, and could really take no pleasure in clambering among rocks, and breaking stones like a convict in a prison yard, and lastly, in consequence of some singular visual defect, I am unable to squint *one eye*, which makes me awkward with a telescope. But all these personal peculiarities fit me for the pursuit of my favorite pastime, and my means fortunately allow me to follow it. Being obliged, as I observed, to keep *both eyes open*, I naturally acquire a considerable knowledge of the internal workings of these institutions in which so large a portion of the human family are more or less interested; being a stout, elderly gentleman, with that benign expression that stout gentlemen always have, I can ask with propriety a thousand questions of town and country officials, which would be regarded as impertinent were they propounded by other men, and finally being of a contemplative turn, I can be amused in watching while others would be bored.

I don't know that it is necessary for me to say anything more by way of introduction, unless it is this, that I incline to believe this mania for visiting post offices originated in the fact that years ago I lost a love-letter through the reprehensible carelessness of some rival official. Had I received it, it is quite probable that I should not now be an elderly bachelor; but it was unadvisedly lost, and from haunting one office in pursuit of that letter, I have taken to haunting a multitude for recreation. In this way I have learned some curious things, which I would like to tell about through the columns of the MAIL, so appropriate as it is for that purpose.

I am not going to tell you of ripe crime, of blossoming cunning, or huddling dishonesty, but the conduct of post office officials, neglect, carelessness, mismanagement, improper department, indifference to public convenience, laxity of obedience to instructions, unrestrained privileges of *scrivains* inside the post offices, where none but sworn officials should be allowed, and other gross derelictions of duty, dignity and decorum, shall be my theme; for where approaches are kept open the tempter sooner or later will slip in, and like a hull in a china shop, he does a vast deal of damage before he is evicted.

I will commence these pen portraits in my next letter; and if my sitters are not recognized by the lovers of art generally, I am sure they will themselves confess to the truthfulness of the pictures, albeit they may object slightly to the light or shade as the case may be. My pallet is prepared, my easel erect, with the canvas on it; I have a good north light to work by, and I shall soon have a rare gallery to present your readers.

MOSSIER TONSON.

P. O., Aug., 1863.

MANUSCRIPTS AND PROOFS.—Sir:—The publishers of one of our leading magazines having put a construction upon section 24 of the New Post Office Law, to suit themselves, concerning the passage through the mails of manuscripts and proofs between the authors and publishers at the same rate of postage as charged upon printed matter, in which construction they, in quoting from the new law, omit the word *books*, when the new law in section 24 reads "Provided, That *books*, manuscripts, and corrected proofs passing between authors and publishers may pass at the rate of printed matter"—a party here, on the strength of the above misconstruction, presented a package of mss. at this office, addressed to one of the monthly magazines, claiming that it should go forward, under the new law, at the rate of printed matter. I objected to dispatching it unless paid for at the rates of letter postage, insisting that said publishers had not only put a wrong construction upon the law, but had actually misquoted it, possibly to suit their case. I told the party that the word *books*, in the law, was the very thing that cut off such publications from enjoying the benefits which were supposed to be conveyed under the law, and evidently were intended, to my mind, to apply only to mss. and proofs for actual *books*, not periodicals or newspapers, and to satisfy myself upon this point, I addressed a letter to the First Assistant Postmaster General, asking him to construe the law, as it was intended that the same should be carried out, the instructions accompanying section 24 being silent as to that portion of it.

The following letter from Mr. Skinner, acting First Assistant Postmaster General, was received in reply:

Sir:—In answer to your letter of 21st inst., I have to state that in the opinion of the Department, section 24 of the new law refers only to "Book manuscripts and corrected proofs passing between authors and publishers," and was not intended to cover manuscripts from contributors to monthly magazines, newspapers, &c.

The Sultan of Turkey is about to institute important postal reforms in that country. The "sick man" is evidently not dead yet.

Learning to Say "No."

BOSTON, Aug. 27th, 1863.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MAIL:

DEAR SIR.—I was not a little surprised upon opening the August number of the MAIL, to find that under the heading of "The Trials of a Postmaster" you had given my announcement of the opening of my *complaint book* a very prominent and wholesome ventilation. I should hardly have dared intrude again upon your attention, were it not for the bracing assurances I have received from sundry postmasters, that an exposition of a few of my own official, *local* postal sufferings had each a counterpart and twin confederate within the delivery of every post office window in the land.

There is really but one school in which a thorough knowledge of universal human character is learned, and that school is the post office. No pent-up Utopia, symbolized by office bars and official windows, can limit the range or control the quantity of this kind of information that a tolerable student may acquire in his usually short official life. Aside from the pleasure it will afford him to be such a thorough master of the science of human nature, he has, if a young man, a grand opportunity to master the first and most important word in the English language—a word that to him will determine to a positive certainty whether he has any business capacity or not. That short word is *No*, and the beginning of a quarter is the best time of the year to learn it. I should observe, perhaps, as it is quite excusable for beginners, when commencing the study of any science, to overlook whatever is advertised in the way of aids, that should a postmaster find any difficulty in entirely mastering the word, he might stiffen his fingers, and confidence a little by a timely perusal of the new law.

When I was quite a lad, too poor to be idle and too proud to starve, I did not think it beneath my dignity to clerk in a country store. That was clerking in those days, when the rich merchant looked over his spectacles at the timid boy that was to work for him a year, and take his pay in board and "business" knowledge, and caution him against the great temptation he would have now and then to take a penny from his employer.

Thus I commenced my business education: digging big wood out of the snow, both late and early; cleaning lamps, sweeping out, and drawing all the molasses, and dipping all the tar; while the older clerk, who had been there longer and knew less than I, wore all the handsome clothes, sold all the edging and ribbons to the pretty girls, and used up the proprietor's cologne and hair-oil to more than twice the amount of his salary. I had been there but a few days when the crazy wife of a wealthy farmer wanted me to trust her for some article. I told my employer that I could not refuse her very well, as her husband was so well off. He replied, "If you can't say *No*, you will never do to clerk for me." I need hardly say that I slipped off with a very lively interest in the neighborhood of my ear-pan, and though I have never made a merchant, I have tried to make at least an average postmaster, and if I fail, it will not be because the salutary lesson taught me by the merchant has been forgotten.

You will pardon me for dwelling so long upon such a very short subject, but I will pledge my official character that if any postmaster dare hazard my experience, and will hand out a weekly paper three months for two cents and a half, and trust that, he will concede that in my case *negative* "on the brain" is a perfectly legitimate disease.

Perhaps you would like to know what success I have had with my "complaint book." I am glad to say that I have made no entries as yet, though I came very near it, therefore my book remains in that passive condition called by one of our country linguists, *state quo*. I have demonstrated the best way to keep accounts in such a book, and that is debit and credit—charging the complaint and crediting the grounds for it—then striking the balance, which will generally be found on the credit side. A lady complained to me that a letter mailed to her had not arrived, and she was in great distress in consequence. I had certainly given it to somebody else, or it was in some of those other piles. I would oblige her very much by "just running them over to see." Before entering the complaint in my book I thought I would ask her how she knew such a letter was lost, and she said, *because he promised to write on such a day*. A man also complained of the non-arrival of a letter, and from constitutional nervousness, or from the effects of eating too many oysters, he flew around, d—g the mails, postmaster, and everything terrestrial, because he had got a telegram from a man five hundred miles distant, stating that he had "just mailed him a letter." Only a day or two ago a man offered a shipplaster for a Canada letter. I told him we must have silver. He returned in a few moments and laid down ten coppers and swore if I did not take it for the letter he would put me through to the extent of the law.

It was United States coin, and when the Government repudiated its own coin it had better give up to Jeff. Davis at once!

I would not have you think that I live and move in a more irate and unreasonable population than others, for such is not the fact. Variety in the social structure renders a life otherwise somewhat monotonous, decidedly agreeable and attractive. I only throw out these specimens by way of rarity, being the first I put my hands on, of a large lot that have been lying around loose, ever since the first mail bag was opened west of the Genesee. I considered them a fair average.

They may induce some other postmaster to relate his experience, for I take it for granted that every postmaster takes the MAIL, except the one out in Iowa, who returned me the receipt for a registered letter a day or two since, signed by him: if in stead of by the person to whom the letter was addressed, and subject to six cents postage.

Yours truly,
CROTON.

Another Post Office Swindle.

During the last month, Wm. H. Webster was arrested, in Albany, for counterfeiting Treasury notes. His *modus operandi* of disposing of his "genuine imitations" was to address circulars to postmasters and other local officers of small towns throughout the country, covering a proposition to furnish the means of a successful speculation, and offering for sale, at thirty cents on the dollar, imitations of the U. S. Treasury notes, which he promised should be so perfect as to defy detection. If the person addressed answered favorably, further correspondence ensued, a sample of the "imitation notes" (of the denomination of one dollar, genuine issue) would be sent, which in most cases would call out an order for a large quantity of notes, enclosing bank bills to pay for them at the rate of thirty cents on the dollar. It is evident that he never furnished the "imitation notes" spoken of in his circulars; that the genuine one dollar note was employed as a bait to call out an order for a quantity of them, accompanied by a remittance in advance payment, which he would pocket. In this manner Webster has done a large business, and his correspondence shows that he has received hundreds of dollars from dupes in all parts of the Northern States.

Webster is about thirty-five years of age, and has long been a resident of Albany. He has devoted much time to "dodges" such as that for which he is now arrested, and always with marked success. It would seem that his study has been to live by swindling those who are willing or vicious enough to swindle their neighbors, and always to do this in a way that would save himself from the penalties of the law. Thus far he has succeeded. His cheats none but those who place in his hands evidence of their desire to deal in counterfeit money, and they of course dare not come forward to prosecute him, because they would thus expose themselves to criminal charges.

The following is his circular, and one of the replies that were found upon him:

ALBANY, July 7, 1863.

DEAR SIR: I will supply you, if you desire it, with United States Treasury Notes of the denomination of \$1, at \$20 per hundred. They are an exact imitation, and you can just as well as not make a few thousand dollars by dealing in them, and no one but yourself need be the wiser. Specimens will be sent you on the receipt of \$1, or one hundred will be sent you on the receipt of \$10. Trusting that my confidence as to success in you will not be misplaced I am,
R. H. WEBSTER, Albany, N. Y.

REPLY.

CONCORD, July 11, 1863.

"FRIEND WEBSTER: Inclosed you will find \$20, for which please send the one hundred. I should have sent you \$50, but it is not convenient just at this time. I shall want to deal with you right along on as large a scale as prudence will allow."
M. W. B.

Later, by two weeks, this victim writes that he has received no package, as Webster informed him that he had sent one, and adds: "It will be very hard for me to lose this with the rest I have lost. Did you register the package?"

No doubt he will escape punishment, as he deals only in good money, and defrauds only those who are dishonest, and who dare not come forward and enter a complaint, or testify against him.

R. R. SLOANE, Esq.—We cut the following notice of an esteemed friend and official associate, from the Chicago Tribune:

"Judge R. R. Sloan, Special Agent at large for the Post Office Department, has at his own request, been transferred from Chicago to Sandusky, Ohio, his place of residence. During the two years that Judge Sloan has been stationed in this city, he has shown himself to be one of the ablest and most successful officers of the Department, and he has behind him a large circle of admiring friends whose good wishes will accompany him to his new field of labor."

R. C. GISS, Esq., Special Agent in charge of the post office at Memphis, Tenn., was lately in New-York on a brief visit to his family. Mr. G. has the Memphis office now in excellent working order.

The New Orleans Post Office.

A sketch of the New Orleans post office since its redemption from rebel control, may not be uninteresting to the readers of the MAIL.

At the time the United States fleet, under the command of Admiral Farragut, anchored before the city and took possession of the United States property, a squad of marines were sent to the post office, located in the most tenable portion of the Custom House building, the remainder being used for armories, Custom House purposes, and manufactories of gun carriages. Shortly after the occupation by the marines, a large mob of citizens assembled in front of the office, and were so violent and insulting in their demonstrations, that the Admiral, rather than risk a conflict with the mob, withdrew them to the ships. Immediately after the marines left, the mob forced open the doors, ripped open the mail boxes, riddled the letters, broke up and destroyed the furniture, clocks, and everything useful for post office operations. In this condition the office was found when Gen. Butler and his troops arrived on the first of May, 1862. On the following day he appointed J. M. G. Parker, the present postmaster, acting postmaster for the city of New Orleans. Mr. Parker had previously served as postmaster in Massachusetts and at Ship Island. Understanding thoroughly the duties of the office, he proceeded at once to a thorough reorganization of that department.

With a small number of clerks he went industriously to work, cleaned up the office, examined all the rebel letters of which there were a great number—over 25,000—mails having arrived the very day our troops landed. The seceded clerks all skedaddled. Repairing what remained of the furniture, in less than a week the office was in complete working order.

The pretended Confederate stamps were all destroyed, and a supply of Government stamps having been brought on from Ship Island, were furnished at once to the citizens. This was a United States post office again re-established in New Orleans. Mr. Parker did not remain idle. He refurnished the office with everything necessary for the distribution and forwarding of the mails, and as the mails increased he gradually increased the number of his clerks. Previous to the rebellion the number of clerks was about thirty-two, but during the time the office was in the possession of the rebels the force was reduced to twenty-five. From the time the federal forces captured the city up to the day of General Banks' arrival, Mr. Parker did not employ more than thirteen clerks, they doing more than double the amount of work that had been done by the rebels.

Early in the month of May, 1862, Postmaster General BLAIR, not knowing the exact condition of the office, detached Maj. R. K. Scott, an officer of the Department—as a Special Agent, to re-open and take charge of the New Orleans post office. He took out with him a very heavy mail, which had accumulated in Washington and New York, and remained for a month or two, co-operating with Mr. Parker in the management of the office. The latter gentleman was subsequently appointed postmaster by the President.

After the arrival of General Banks, Mr. Parker for the first time appointed a chief clerk, he having acted in that capacity in addition to his duties as postmaster—Mr. D. D. Smith, a capable and efficient officer, receiving the appointment. On the 16th of December, when Gen. Banks' forces reached there, the business of the office increased more than double. This addition of more than fifty thousand troops to this department made it necessary for the postmaster to increase his clerical force, which he did to the number of seventeen, with the important changes and improvements he had made, has enabled him to run the office successfully and satisfactorily to this day. Another very important improvement is in progress under the immediate supervision of the postmaster, who possesses great mechanical genius. He has designed and is fitting a new style of private and other letter boxes, which when completed cannot be surpassed in any of our cities.

It is but justice to Mr. Parker to say that he has worked most industriously and faithfully for the interests of the Government, and every class of citizens interested in the speedy and safe delivery of all mail matter and the transmission of the mails, and the proofs are daily more and more apparent to every one who visits the office.

The re-opening of the Mississippi, by the capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, will no doubt have the effect of still further increasing the business of the office.

MAIL SEPARATELY.—Complaint is made that the late order of the Department, requiring that army correspondence for Washington and its vicinity, shall be put up separately from other letters, and the package marked "Army Letters," is not generally complied with. It applies to all offices, and to letters sent to a distributing office, as well as to packages made up direct for the Capital.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1863.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR—Consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the general bureau, as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR
Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

A New Volume.

Our readers will please bear in mind that the present number of the Mail completes the third volume, and that according to our terms, payment in advance for the fourth volume is now due by those who subscribed at the commencement of the paper, or at the beginning of the second, or third volume, and have not paid beyond September, 1863, or No. 36. All such will much oblige us by remitting without waiting for a bill, as it will save us considerable trouble, and the cash will come very handy in meeting the expense of publication.

We are thinking strongly of enlarging the Mail, so as to be able to keep standing, under appropriate heads, every kind of needed postal information, for reference at all times, modifying, adding to, or changing from time to time, according to the orders and decisions of the Department. We are now obliged, owing to our rather limited space, to insert items but a few times, which should appear permanently, so that when such information is sought, the previous numbers of the paper have to be consulted, and there must often be uncertainty as to the time when the desired items were inserted.

We are requested to state that the new form of blanks for regular and transient printed matter, are now in the hands of the printer, and will be furnished to all postmasters as soon as possible.

OFFICIAL.

LETTERS ADDRESSED TO DEPARTMENTS, &c.—The annexed Circular settles a question which has been asked by numerous postmasters:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, 1863.

SIR—You are hereby instructed that all mail matter posted at your office, and addressed to any Executive Department, or to any officer therein, on which the postage is unpaid and which is not properly franked, must be forwarded, with each weekly return of "Unmailable Letters," to the Dead Letter Office, in the mode prescribed on the latter part of page 3 of instructions published with Act approved March 3, 1863.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

Notice to Postmasters and the Public.

The increased registration fee of 20 cents established by the recent Postal Law, is not applicable to such registered letters mailed in the United States as are addressed to Prussia or any part of the German-American Postal Union by the Prussian closed mail; to Bremen by the Bremen mail; or to Canada; for the reason that our Postal Conventions with Prussia, Bremen, and Canada, respectively, adopt a registration fee of five cents for each registered letter posted in the United States and addressed to either of those countries.

But registered letters addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland are subject to the increased registration fee of 20 cents, the same as domestic registered letters, as the Postal Convention between the United States and the United Kingdom does not limit the amount of the registration fee to be collected in either country.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
Post Office Department, July 9, 1863.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

FINANCE OFFICE, WASHINGTON, July 23, 1863.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 10th instant, relative to the exchange by postmasters of such Government stamped envelopes as have been spoiled, by reason of erroneous direction, or from any other cause, prior to the use thereof as a cover for correspondence, I have to say, that when an application of this nature is made to a postmaster, he will first satisfy himself that the envelopes presented for exchange have not been so used; whereupon he may deliver to the holder postage stamps of equal value to the stamps impressed upon the envelopes. Thus the difference between the cost of postage stamps and stamped envelopes of similar denominations is the only loss to which the holder is subjected.

The postmaster should return the envelopes so received, separately from his account current, at the close of each quarter. The package containing them should be addressed to the Third Assistant P. M. General, and accompanied by a special letter.

Respectfully yours,
C. F. MACDONALD,
Acting 3d Assistant P. M. General.
J. HOLBROOK, Esq., New York.

The International Postal Convention.

We understand that the Postmaster General is highly gratified with the result of the International Postal Conference recently held in Paris. All the leading nations of the world, except Russia, participated, and many smaller governments were represented. The United States was represented with great ability by its delegate, the Hon John A. Kasson, who was completely successful in obtaining favorable action by the Conference on the measures recommended by the U. S. Post Office Department, having for their object uniformity, simplicity and cheapness in international postal intercourse. The general principles adopted and recommended by the Conference as adapted to facilitate postal relations between nations, and to form the basis of International Conventions for the regulation of these relations, have inaugurated a more liberal and more uniform postal system between the different nations of the world. The Home Governments of several countries have already adopted the principles settled there as the basis for future Postal Conventions. Others will follow. Mr. Kasson concluded some treaties before his return, giving practical effect to the liberal movements initiated at the International Conference.

It is now confidently expected that, as soon as the arrangements already in progress are perfected, there will be a general reduction in the rates of postage to all parts of Europe, with a uniform rate to most of the countries. The press will realize great convenience from the pending propositions, by the essential reduction of rates on journals and printed matter, which will soon be effected. In addition to the public convenience, the Government will realize an important saving in money by a change in the system of accounting between it and foreign countries.

The last act of the Conference was to give unanimously a vote of thanks to the United States Government for its institution of so beneficial an enterprise.

A SACRIFICE, NO DOUBT.—When the Southern rebellion broke out, we had on our subscription list a goodly number of postmasters in the South, who had each paid their dollar in advance, but who suddenly found their official relations so changed that they were forced to rely on other guides, and forego, for a time only, we trust, the advantages of our humble efforts to enlighten them on postal affairs. Since then, they have no doubt been pining for a sight of the MAIL once more, and the balance of the papers due them on account. We can testify to the great tenacity with which many of them cling to the old Department of the Union, under which they had been warmed into official life and importance, and whose original commissions of appointment they doubtless have carefully preserved as mementoes of former peace, happiness and prosperity. We have some of the truly patriotic letters they wrote us when things had become more than squally, which we stand ready to make available in their behalf, should they apply to be reinstated as postal officers of the American Union, and we also stand ready to supply them again with the MAIL, as soon as the proper facilities shall have been re-established.

KNOW SOMETHING.—It is too often the custom with postmasters, on receiving an inquiry in regard to a supposed missing letter, to reply in a hasty and brief manner without giving themselves the trouble of making the slightest investigation of the matter beyond a hurried search among the letters remaining on hand—dismissing the subject with the curt statement, "Don't know anything of the letter"—or "can give no information," &c. This is neither courteous to the inquirer nor consistent with official faithfulness. It often happens that the expenditure of a very little time and trouble may develop facts which will clear up the mystery connected with the disappearance of a missing letter in the most satisfactory manner, either by showing the "loss" to have occurred before it was mailed or after it had been delivered, or through misdirection; and no postmaster should grudge the necessary effort to accomplish this result, if possible. In cases which seem to point to a mail depredation, especially, it is obligatory upon every one connected with the postal service to communicate at once, and fully, any information which he may possess, to the proper officer, to assist in an investigation. Let us have less "don't know's," and more of what you do know, or may know by seeking.

HON. A. N. ZEVELY.—At a recent meeting of the Faculty and Trustees of Lafayette College, at Easton, Pennsylvania, the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon the Hon. Alexander N. Zevely, Third Assistant Postmaster General—a just and merited compliment.

Mr. Zevely is about to start on a Western tour, which may be extended over the whole or a portion of the overland mail route. He goes for the benefit of his health and to look after the interests of the Department in that section.

A. C. Macdonald, Esq., will continue to represent Mr. Z., as Acting Third Assistant Postmaster General.

"ADVANTAGES OF ADVERTISING"—The individual who originated the ingenious idea of selling two cent stamps by advertising "portraits of Jackson" for 25 cents, which we noticed in our last issue, proved, on an investigation of the case, to be a youth of about 16. When questioned in regard to the matter, he admitted the offence, and stated as an excuse that he had just returned from a boarding school, the principal of which was accustomed to impress upon the pupils the importance of advertising as a means of success in business, and that his little operation was for the purpose of testing the truth of his instructor's theory!

The Lottery Swindle.

Under the caption of "Swindling by Mail," in our last paper, we gave some account of one of the latest ingenious, though villainous enterprises for the purpose of relieving unsuspecting victims of their too ready money, in various parts of the country. We allude to the exploits of "W. P. Hunter," and "Wright, Gordon & Co.," which enterprising and respectable "firm," by some singular freak, no doubt from its proximity to the Canada line, selected the quiet and secluded village of Cherubusco, N. Y., as their base of operations. Since our brief account of this attempted swindle, some interesting developments have transpired. We say attempted swindle, because, as has often happened before to such dishonest adventurers, the fruits of their villainy took to themselves wings, just at the moment when a handsome fortune seemed to be within their grasp.

In answer to the ingeniously written and tempting circulars of Hunter, copies of which we gave, numerous letters began to arrive at the Cherubusco post office, for which it appears the swindlers were too cautious to call, but they or one of their "agents," (probably Hunter himself,) had previously arranged with the postmaster to deliver them for a consideration, from time to time, to a party claiming to be the owner, at a certain hotel a few miles distant, and just within the Canadian limits. After one or two trips, however, the aforesaid official, suspecting, from the great increase of letters, and some other circumstances, that his new duties of letter carrier might not in the end be a profitable business, discontinued it, and in the course of a few weeks some 1400 letters accumulated. The postmaster, meantime, had been advised to "hold" them and report the facts at Washington, but the case coming to the notice of the County Attorney for Clinton County, he employed an officer, who went to Cherubusco, and remained for some time watching for whoever might come to demand the letters. One night at a late hour one of the persons who had before employed the postmaster, as already described, ventured to call on him for the too long neglected correspondence. By a previous arrangement with the Attorney the letters were given him, simultaneously with a tap on the shoulder by the officer, who at once took him into custody on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences. A legal examination followed, but by some means, fair or foul, the scoundrel succeeded in making the Justice believe that his name was "Malone," and that in calling for the letters he only acted as the messenger of "Hunter." The magistrate or the attorney, or both, proceeded to open the letters, (for which act, by the way, they had not the slightest legal authority,) when a large majority of them were found to contain \$5 each, that being the exact discount demanded of the lucky (?) ones, on the comfortable imaginary prize of \$200. The aggregate amount of the enclosures was \$4,330. About one thousand similar letters have since arrived, and been forwarded to the Dead Letter Office, whence the enclosures will be returned to the owners. We trust this lesson will teach them not to dabble in such doubtful speculations in future. Steps have been taken to secure a similar disposition of the money in the first mentioned batch of letters.

All postmasters should strictly follow the order of the Postmaster General, and promptly forward to the Dead Letter Office all letters, the addresses of which are known to be fictitious. Under no circumstances should they be given up to the State authorities without the order of the Postmaster General. And it is also expected that postmasters shall take all necessary steps to enable them to determine the true character of correspondence of this kind, when justifiable suspicions arise. In no other way, at present, can the dishonest tricks of this class of swindlers be defeated. Congress will, no doubt, take up this important subject of the abuse of the mails, and adopt the most stringent measures to remedy what has become a great evil. We are in favor of a law which shall provide severe penalties against all attempts, whether successful or otherwise, to use the U. S. mail for the purpose of deceiving or defrauding the public. It should be made the duty of postmasters to intercept at any stage of their progress, and send to the Dead Letter Office, not only all letters of individuals or firms known to be using fictitious names and titles, but all obscene circulars, pictures and books, with which the mails are now flooded. And we have thought it would not be a bad idea for postmasters generally to post up placards in the most public places about their offices, containing a caution to "Beware of attempted Swindles through the Mails."

Specimen copies of this paper will be sent to some postmasters whose names are not on our list. If they approve of its objects and think it worthy of their patronage, we shall be happy to receive their orders.

The publication of the MAIL was commenced just three years ago, and yet so modest has our publisher been in the matter of soliciting subscribers, that we hear almost daily, of postmasters, and others, who until recently had never heard of the existence of such a paper. Hereafter we shall endeavor to prevent this lack of information on so important a matter. "To see the MAIL is to become a subscriber." So "they say."

Judging from the very trivial questions often sent to us by postmasters, it must be inferred either that they are without a copy of the new laws and instructions, or that they have not considered them of sufficient importance to receive even a cursory examination.

For instance, we have three inquiries from distant postmasters as to what postage they must charge on parcels addressed to soldiers in the army—such as "shirts, socks, handkerchiefs and other articles of clothing."

Questions and Answers.

A postmaster asks if he shall "charge double postage on newspapers mailed in Canada, inasmuch as the domestic rate is unpaid, and the law directs that on all unpaid matters double rates must be collected."

Answer.—As there is no way provided by which U. S. postage can be prepaid on printed matter from Canada, it is to be charged with single postage only.

"What shall we do with letters addressed to the President, the Departments, &c., many of which bear no endorsement of 'official,' nor the signature of the writer? Must we charge them with double postage, or send them to the Dead Letter Office, and if the latter how often?"

Letters addressed to the President, or to any of the Executive Departments, or to officers in such departments, on which the postage is unpaid, and which are not properly franked by officers of the Government, must be forwarded with each weekly return of "unmailable letters," to the Dead Letter Office, in the mode prescribed on the latter part of page 5, of instructions published with Act approved March 3, 1863. See official circular in another column.

There are several enquiries relative to the obligations of postmasters in conveying regular mail pouches between their several offices and cars, or other conveyances.

We reply that they have nothing to do with the transportation of the mails beyond exercising a proper vigilance in seeing that the service is safely and properly performed by others upon whom that duty devolves. For all distances over eighty rods, the contract office makes special provision, and for less than that, unless a local mail messenger is employed, the railroad or steamboat companies are required, by contract, to receive and deliver the mails at the post office.

There are doubtless many cases, however, where the distance is so short that the bags may be exchanged with the route agents and others, by the postmaster or his clerk, with very little labor. No objections exist against this extra duty whenever it is assumed. In this connection it may be well to state that the Department does not hold itself responsible for any arrangements made or expenses incurred by postmasters or others, for the conveyance of the mails, without its express sanction in writing.

SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—The question on this subject, as put, is not clearly understood. If it means unpaid letters addressed to soldiers, where the writer is not known, such letters should not be forwarded; but must be sent at once to the Dead Letter Office, from whence they will be returned to the writers, with the information that they were held because the postage was not prepaid.

Prepaid letters addressed to soldiers in any regiment in the service of the United States, and directed to them at a point where they have been stationed, may be forwarded, whenever practicable, to any other point to which they may have been ordered, without further charge for forwarding, as heretofore—Congress not intending to take away any of the privileges heretofore granted to soldiers.

If a newspaper or periodical is refused, and yet continues to arrive after the publisher has been notified, and is sold for postage under regulation of 1859, Sec. 120 and 121, can the publisher thereof collect pay for the paper of the person to whom it is sold?"

Answer.—We know of no authority on the part of the Department to interfere in this matter. It would seem to be a question for the lawyers, and the courts.

"Am I authorized as postmaster, to administer an oath in relation to the matters connected with the U. S. mail service? And can I install an assistant in office, by administering the oath as laid down in instruction No. 6, sec. 5, of the new law?"

No. The oath must be administered by a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or Judge of a Court.

"Some of our people," writes an Oregon post office clerk, "put revenue stamps upon their letters, and insist that they are good for postage, as the law says letters must be prepaid in stamps. I don't see it, and such letters as I find dropped in the office I of course rate double. Please tell me if this is all correct."

Our friend must be surrounded by a very sensible and intelligent community, truly. They probably employ postage stamps for revenue purposes, and possibly with success. Perhaps not. But as all such stamps have to be paid for before they can be had, we see no objections to this kind of contributions to the Government. We should be sorry to think that there were many officials requiring information on so simple a matter as this. And yet it will do no harm to say that a wafer, when attached to a letter, goes just as far in the prepayment of postage, as a revenue stamp.

"Please state in the next number of the MAIL, whether or not, a city postmaster is obliged to deliver through the post office the whole city circulation of a weekly newspaper, printed in the same city."

Reply.—Postmasters are not required to receive from publishers, weekly or other newspapers, published in the town or village where the post office is kept, and deliver them to subscribers calling for them.

The above answers have been revised by the proper officers of the Department, and by them officially approved.—[Ed. MAIL.]

S. NEWTON PERRY, Esq., has been appointed by the Department as temporary Special Agent, to proceed to Natchez, Miss., for the purpose of opening the post-office at that place, and to exercise a general supervision over the new postal arrangements in the rebel States bordering on the Mississippi and the Gulf.

A Batch of Depredations.

We give below a list of post office robberies and depredations which have been reported since our last issue. We have noticed heretofore the alarming frequency of burglarious entrances of post offices, which seems to indicate that the "cracksmen" have lately given special attention to this branch of their business, and should induce all postmasters to guard in every possible way against such visitors, as none can tell who will be the next recipient of their nocturnal attentions:—

SOUTHOLD, L. I.—During the night of July 24th, the post office at this place was entered and robbed of about \$50 in money, (which was obtained by removing the back from a Herring safe,) together with various other articles. It is not known whether any letters were taken. A basket of boiled crabs (which were not in the Herring) was also appropriated by the thieves, supposed to be a man and a boy, who, on the previous afternoon, called and took a survey of the premises, under pretence of selling some sea bass, and who were traced to the shore of the Sound by the crab-shells scattered by them as they walked. It is supposed they made their escape to the Connecticut shore, whence they stated they came on a "fishing excursion," but probably it was in their line to hook anything.

TOLEDO, O.—Charles B. Fuller, a boy, was detected on the 14th of August, in the act of robbing the lock-boxes of the Toledo office. He had been a resident of the city for about six weeks, and had carried on his depredations during the most of that time. He made a confession soon after his arrest, and surrendered about two hundred letters, containing drafts and checks to the value of over \$3,000. Most of the money which he had obtained had been spent.

CLEVELAND, O.—Joseph Carr, a young man formerly employed as a clerk in the Cleveland office, was arrested on the 14th ult., on a charge of extensive robberies of letters. He had resigned his situation, but was expecting a re-appointment, and in the meantime slept in the office as he had been accustomed to do, and, as afterwards appeared, appropriated several packages of letters which he concealed in his valise. On the 10th, he announced his intention of going to New York, and after his departure, on Monday, some boys who were bathing near the depot, beneath the pier, found a number of papers and envelopes floating in the water, which they collected and took home, when they were found to be portions of letters addressed to New York and other places east. Postmaster Cowles, of Cleveland, was notified of the facts, and at once suspected Carr of the theft. Means were taken to have him arrested in New York, but on the 14th he suddenly returned, and on being charged with the crime made a full confession, and after examination was committed to jail in default of \$2,000 bail.

The two arrests last mentioned will explain a large number of losses which have been reported from the West.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS.—The post office in this town was entered on Thursday night, 13th of August, and robbed of a considerable number of letters. The robbers entered by the basement window and coming up the stairs to the door opening into the lobby, cut through the door so as to lift the hook by which it was fastened, and entered the post office through the delivery window. Several mails intended for Albany and New Haven were put up awaiting transportation by the morning trains. These bags were cut open and their contents abstracted, together with all other letters remaining in the office. Change to the amount of about six dollars was taken, but several sheets of postage stamps were not deemed worth stealing. The rascals also attempted to get into the safe by drilling, but they were evidently unprepared to prosecute that part of the business successfully, and desisted after an ineffectual trial. On Friday morning, Mr. Harris, President of the Conn. R. R. Co., discovered, as the morning train came up from Springfield, a quantity of paper on the bank of Mill river near the spile bridge in the meadows. Information was soon given, and the missing letters were found there lying in two piles, indicating that two persons were engaged in the robbery. The letters had all been opened, but it does not appear, from an examination of them, that the rascals obtained much money. All drafts and notes were left. Two hard-looking customers who had been observed taking a survey of the premises are suspected, but no trace of them has yet been discovered.

SALEM, MASS.—On the night of 24th August the Salem office was entered and a clean sweep made by the robbers—every letter being taken. We are without further particulars.

From the large number of foreign letters returned from the New-York and other offices for want of prepayment of postage in whole or in part, we fear that many postmasters mislead correspondents as to the proper rates required, by consulting incorrect and obsolete tables of foreign postages, which they may happen to have in their possession. That contained in the book of laws and regulations, published in 1859, is of course, as a whole, quite unreliable. We propose, as a remedy, the adoption of the table as furnished in these columns, and officially corrected monthly.

In all cities and large towns, there are more or less citizens who write letters for foreign countries. Would it not save postmasters some trouble and inconvenience, if they would induce such persons to subscribe for the MAIL, thus always having at hand the desired information not only on this subject, but relative to other postal matters of equal importance to all correspondents? Suppose some of our friends make the experiment.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

Strayed, not Stolen.

ERROR U. S. MAIL.—There seems to be a disposition to defer to your wisdom questions connected with the Post Office Department. Allow me to ask:

Is it advisable for postmasters to assume the responsibility of transferring misdirected letters to another office without knowing that the new direction is the right one? "Try A, Try B" I cite a case illustrative:

A letter was sent from Portland, Me., June 15, 1861, addressed to Mr. Asa Clark, Greenfield, (intended for Greenville) Cona. Its travels were long, its course tortuous, and not altogether clear to define. The places visited are designated by the post office dates of its departure, but as the years are not always given the succession cannot be determined. At some of the offices it must have been kindly cared for for many months, before starting it to another "Sleepy Hollow." Its postmarks bear date—

- Greenfield, Mass. June 16,
- Hill, Conn., Oct. 7,
- Centre, N. Y., Oct. 8, 1862,
- Ulster Co., N. Y., Oct. 18, 1862.

From this last office the supposition is that it was returned to Greenfield Centre, N. Y., as it was sent from that office April 15, 1863, to the sleeping department at Washington.

Its journey and rests occupied twenty-nine months, during all which time it kept snugly concealed its precious deposit, a draft, the drawer of which, then lived way down in the jumping off place, but is supposed to be in the army or dead—a bank note and some stamps of the class since repudiated by the Department. The only known valuable part is the bank bill. The amount was designed to pay an account then due. Not coming to time, a new demand was made for payment, out of which a somewhat piquant correspondence, touching rights and responsibilities, took place, resulting in the payment of the account.

Since the return of the letter, the writer discovered his error in the address, and consoles himself by the reflection that it was not stolen out of the mail; but it shows a fault in our post office system, to find a letter with funds traveling so long to find an owner.

ROBBERY OF SICK SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—A cruel robbery occurred in Washington on the 26th ult. On that day, a soldier from the Fifth Army Corps, called at the post office, and presented an order from the convalescent camp of said Corps, signed by "A. M. Clark, Surgeon-in-Chief, Camp Convalescent, Alexandria, Va." The mail was delivered to him, and about an hour later, he was found in an obscure alley, engaged in opening the letters, one hundred of which he had broken open. He was arrested and is still in prison awaiting his examination. The order was a forgery. It is fortunate that this robbery was overtaken before he had destroyed the letters or made way with whatever they may have contained of value. If some "highly influential" individuals do not step in and bail him, or get him out of the scrape with out even going through with that too often worthless process, the friends of the poor sick soldiers may possibly hear of one culprit of that stamp who has been properly punished.

SENSIBLE.—We publish the annexed extract from a letter written us by a postmaster and patron in Indiana, because it contains some suggestions which by no means displease us, and which might have been thrown out long since, but for reasons readily comprehended by those who appreciate true modesty. We wish it could be read by those who do not take the MAIL:

"Sir: The article in the U. S. Mail, for August, headed 'Prospects of the Mail,' suggests to me that the Post Office Department might adopt a plan to have published officially in your paper, all decisions, instructions, &c., to postmasters and the public. Much of the loss to the Department and postmasters is through the ignorance of postal laws. Let the Department adopt the above plan fully, and then require every postmaster to subscribe and pay for the MAIL. In no other way can the Department reach its subordinates as cheaply and quickly. Self-preservation is the first law of nature. So with the Department; its revenues are its life-blood, and must be protected to meet the requirements of the Government and the people. Many postmasters would, no doubt, object to be officially required to subscribe for the paper; but I venture to say that at the end of the first year scarcely one would do without it, and the Department would thereby save thousands of dollars."

INCREASING COMMISSIONS.—Officers are frequently made to postmasters at small offices, to deposit with them large quantities of letters, circulars or other printed matter, on condition that the postmaster will make it an object to do so, by allowing the applicant a share of the extra commissions which would result from such an influx of mail matter, thus enabling him, the said applicant, to recover a part of the cost of the prepaid postage. Occasionally a very honest postmaster has readily taken this bait, supposing that nobody could be "hurt" thereby, and that it was strictly his own private affair. Not at all. The Department repudiates all such irregular proceedings, as, among other reasons, they are very likely to cause a reduction of its revenues. Usually the class of matter referred to, if legitimate, relates to some business transaction in or near a large town or city, where the letters are written, and the circulars, &c., are actually printed. If deposited in such offices, which is the proper one, it would be no object to the postmaster, he being paid a fixed salary perhaps, and thus all the commissions would go to the Department, minus all "drawbacks."

Such diversion of mailable matter of any kind, from its natural depositories and channels, is discountenanced altogether. In a large majority of cases, the attempt so to divert is coupled with some unworthy motive, either of gain or petty revenge, neither of which are to be encouraged or tolerated.

Complaints are made that army officers of various grades are urging upon postmasters their right to frank letters and documents other than such as are addressed to heads of Departments, to whom they are directly responsible, officially. They cannot correspond free with each other, or with superior officers, except those in the same branch of the public service with themselves, and designated in the 42d section of the last law of Congress. Everything else must be prepaid by postage stamps.

A glance at sections 20 and 25 of the law of March last, and the instruction attached to the latter, will give the required information. An effort was made in the last Congress to fix the charge on articles addressed to soldiers, at one cent per ounce, if we mistake not; but it failed, and the former decision of the Department, made in the absence of authority to the contrary, that letter rates must be demanded, has since remained in force. This decision has often been published.

We noticed in our last the appointment of Ben Johnson, Esq., Special Agent, to the charge of the Vicksburg post-office. We regret to be now obliged to announce his death, which took place on the 19th ult., after a short illness, the effects of which were doubtfully aggravated by the cares and anxieties of his official duties, acting upon a naturally nervous temperament. Mr. McPherson, a brother of Major-General McPherson, has temporary charge of the Vicksburg office.

ROBBERY OF ARMY MAILS.—Lieut.-Col. Lockwood, commanding the 7th Virginia Union Regiment, reports a series of robberies of the mails of the 3d Division, 2d Army Corps, running from the 8th to the 25th of August. Several thousands of dollars in Government and private drafts, checks and bonds, have been purloined, and the letters covering them found along the route. The carriers are under arrest.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices during the month of August:

ESTABLISHED.

POST OFFICE	COUNTY	STATE	ROUTE
Albionville	Carroll	Pa.	Route 2, 374
Amador City	Amador	Cal.	14,803
Barber Creek	Putnam	Mo.	10,478
Beaumont	Accomack	Va.	2,811
Bentley Station	Hancock	Ill.	11,919
Beverly	Christian	Ky.	9,675
Big Springs	Louis	Iowa	10,936
Blue Mountain	Catawba	Cal.	Supplied from Mckelmeville Hill
Blue Ridge	Harrison	Mo.	Route 10,510
Brown's	Kenton	Ky.	9,530
Carson City	Leader	Nev.	Supplied from Jacksonville
Comstock	Gentry	Mo.	Supplied from Albany
Crawford	Isabella	Mich.	Route 12,692
Craig's Mills	Rails	Mo.	Supplied from Monroe City
Caughmanville	Richie	W. Va.	Route 4,128
Delmar	Somerset	Md.	Route 3,818
Denver	Hancock	Ill.	11,919
Doyle's Mills	Donata	Pa.	2,449
East Elma	Erie	N. Y.	1,303
Erwin Centre	Steben	W. Va.	2,489
Fallowfield	Crawford	Pa.	2,812
For's Ferry	Crittenden	Ky.	3,363
Forest Oak	Montgomery	Pa.	3,363
Gilpin	Indiana	Pa.	Supplied from Home
Glen Oak	Hamilton	Iowa	Route 9,666
Hook's Point	Warren	Mo.	1,924
Hopewell Acad.	Warren	Mo.	Supplied from Warren
Kent	Portage	Ohio	Route 2,812
Laurel Point	Monongalia	W. Va.	4,153
Meade	Franklin	Ohio	West Jefferson
Mortonsville	Clinton	Ind.	Route 12,275
Mullan's Bridge	Wal. Walla	W. T.	15,281
New Garden	Ray	Mo.	10,488
New Hartford	Winona	Mn.	Supplied from Richmond
North Springfield	Erie	Pa.	Route 9,095
Port Hudson	Franklin	Mo.	10,409
Pochoonah	Baker	Oreg.	Supplied from Walla Walla
Ripley Landing	Jackson	W. V.	Route 4,110
Rural	Rock Island	Ill.	Supplied from Cal. Valley
St. Thobias	Madison	Pa.	Route 11,283
School	Whito	Pa.	11,854
Scioto	Jackson	Wis.	13,169
Smith River	Del Norte	Cal.	14,877
Somerville	Con. Costa	Pa.	Supplied from Antioch
Surrey	Portage	Wis.	Route 13,063
Vauville	Clippewa	W.	Supplied from Highgate Falls
West Mansfield	Logan	O.	Supplied from East Liberty
Wood	Wood	Wis.	Route 13,066

DISCONTINUED.

[In the annexed List will be found added, the names of the nearest offices to which matter for those having been discontinued, should be sent.]

ACTON, MECKER, Minn.	Forest City
Ashburn, Logan, Ky. <td>Russellville</td>	Russellville
Augusta Station, Marion, Ind. <td>Indianapolis</td>	Indianapolis
Belle Ombre, Ballard, Ky. <td>Blainville</td>	Blainville
Big Ready, Elmson, Ky. <td>Hazard</td>	Hazard
Big Rock, Harlan, Ky. <td>Spurlock</td>	Spurlock
Birmingham, Marshall, Ky. <td>Benton</td>	Benton
Black Water, Morgan, Ky. <td>West Liberty</td>	West Liberty
Branserville, Perry, Ky. <td>Hickman</td>	Hickman
Brookerville, Pike, Ky. <td>Pike</td>	Pike
Bridlesburg, Philadelphia, Pa. <td>Philadelphia</td>	Philadelphia
Brun, Carter, Ky. <td>Grayson</td>	Grayson
Bushy Fork, Licking, Ohio <td>Toboso</td>	Toboso
Rutler, Bates, Mo. <td>Clinton</td>	Clinton
Callaway, Harlan, Ky. <td>Spurlock</td>	Spurlock
Cascadia, Wayne, Pa. <td>Pleasant Mount</td>	Pleasant Mount
Cash's Knob, Montgomery, Ky. <td>Mount Sterling</td>	Mount Sterling
Central City, Nemaha, Kan. <td>Seneca</td>	Seneca
Clear Fork, Whitley, Ky. <td>Whitley C. H.</td>	Whitley C. H.
Clear Spring, Graves, Ky. <td>Mayfield</td>	Mayfield
Cleveland, Allamakee, Iowa <td>Waikoa</td>	Waikoa
Comato, Birmingham, Ill. <td>Teatopolis</td>	Teatopolis
Cottonwood, Christian, Ky. <td>Hopkinsville</td>	Hopkinsville
Cut Shina, Perry, Ky. <td>Hazard</td>	Hazard
Devil's Creek, Wolfe, Ky. <td>Switville</td>	Switville
Eagle Creek, Brown, Ohio <td>Ash Ridge</td>	Ash Ridge
Eagle's Nest, Hamilton, N. Y. <td>Inlet Lake</td>	Inlet Lake
East Station, Penobscot, Me. <td>Stetson</td>	Stetson
Edin, Buchanan, Iowa <td>Independence</td>	Independence
Escalipon, Logan, Ky. <td>Russellville</td>	Russellville
Fountain's Run, Wash. Mo. <td>Potosi</td>	Potosi
Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa. <td>Philadelphia</td>	Philadelphia
Frankford, Breathitt, Ky. <td>Jackson</td>	Jackson
Gainesville, Allen, Ky. <td>Scottsville</td>	Scottsville
George's Creek, Lawrence, Ky. <td>Louis</td>	Louis
Gill's Mills, Bath, Ky. <td>Owingsville</td>	Owingsville
Glen's Fork, Adair, Ky. <td>Elkader</td>	Elkader
Golden Gate, Jefferson, Co. <td>Golden Gate City</td>	Golden Gate City
Goodhue Centre, Goodhue, Minn. <td>Red Wing</td>	Red Wing
Graham, Warren, Ky. <td>Russellville</td>	Russellville
Grand Meadow, Clayton, Iowa <td>Elkader</td>	Elkader
Grassy Creek, Morgan, Ky. <td>West Liberty</td>	West Liberty
Green Grove, Clinton, Ky. <td>Albany</td>	Albany
Hague, Logan, Ky. <td>Russellville</td>	Russellville
Hall, Hopkins, Ky. <td>Russellville</td>	Russellville
Hamilton's Store, Pike, Ky. <td>Vincennes</td>	Vincennes
Hardsville, Crawford, Ill. <td>Vincennes</td>	Vincennes

Harford Furnace, Har., Md.	Perrymanville
Indianapolis, Miami, Kan.	Oswatimie
Indian Bottom, Letcher, Ky.	Whites' gth
Jones, Jackson, Ohio	Thurman
John's Store, Anne Arundel Md.	Arnold's Store
Kansas, Graves, Ky.	Mayfield
Lanesville, Floyd, Ky.	Prestonburgh
Latham, Pike, Ohio	Byron
Leicester, Washington, Ind.	Salmon
Leicester, St. Francis, Mo.	Farmington
Long Grove, Morgan, Mo.	Tipton
Long View, Christian, Ky.	Hopkinsville
Lot, Whitley, Ky.	Whitley C. H.
McLean's Retreat, Mich.	Owasanobroth
Magnolia, Allen, Kansas	Ozark
Martinsburg, Monroe, Ky.	Tompkinsville
Melvin, Ballard, Ky.	Blainville
Middleford, Sussex, Del.	Seaford
Millport, Washington, Ind.	Salmon
Monte, White, Bracken, Ky.	Brookville
Newberry, Wayne, Ky.	Monticello
N. Gallatin, Columbia, N. Y.	Hudson
North Hill, Wayne, Ky.	Monticello
Oliver, Marshall, Ky.	Pike
Parleysville, Wayne, Ky.	Monticello
Pembroke, Christian, Ky.	Trenton
Pill Ridge, Bullitt, Ky.	Shepherdsville
Porter, Harlan, Ky.	Salmon
Quality Valley, Butler, Ky.	Morgantown
Rice's X Roads, Carter, Ky.	Grayson
Rock Lick, F. Kenridge, Ky.	Harlinsburgh
Rivers, Marshall, Ky.	Pike
Rovena, Russell, Ky.	Monticello
Royal Creek, Kennewise, Wis.	Kewanee
Rushford, Kewanee, Wis.	Kewanee
Savner, Owen, Ky.	Owensville
Shelby, Lenoir, Ky.	Shelby
Shylyk, Lenoir, Ky.	Niobrara
Spring Garden, Pettis, Mo.	Georgetown
Spring Grove, Owsley, Ky.	Bonesville
Stewart, Warren, Ky.	Wenton
Strongtown, Indiana, Pa.	Nolo
Strong Point, Bourbon, Ky.	Paris
Swamp, Muscatine, Iowa	Muscatine
Swamp Pond, Knox, Ky.	Barbourville
Tanahongah, Camden, N. J.	Long-corning
Taylor's Corners, DeKalb, Ind.	Waterloo City
Union Springs, Caldwell, Ky.	Princeton
W. Cottage, Harrison, Ind.	Corydon
White Hill, Laurel, Ky.	London
White Hill, Gaswa, Pa.	White
Wild Cat, Whitley, Ky.	Whitley C. H.
Wilson's Creek, Graves, Ky.	Mayfield
Wittenberg, Somerset, Pa.	Berlin

PAID BY THE MAIL.

Anderson, Warren, N. J., to Penwell, Hunderdon Co. Auburn Station, Placer, Cal., to Secret Ravine. Boh Town, Accomack, Va., to Pongoteague. Carson Valley, Ormsby, Nev., to Genoa. Croy's Run, Clinton, Pa., to Lenovo. Great Washington, Sullivan, N. H., Mrs. Anna Monroe. Jessamine, Jessamine, Ky., to Camp Nelson. Sautrel Falls, Jefferson, Kan., to Grashopper Falls. Shawnee, Shawnee, Mich., to N. Newberg. Spring Springs, Montgomery, Pa., to Spring Springs. Summit, Lincoln, to Rose Centre. Westville, Charlton, Mo., to Byansville.

Female Postmasters Appointed.
Ayer's Hill, Potter, Pa., Mrs. Maranda Ayers.
Conestoga, Jasper, Ill., Sarah J. Heim.
Crawford, Crawford, Pa., Miss E. Nelson.
Fallowfield, Crawford, Pa., Miss E. Nelson.
For's Ferry, Crittenden, Ky., Mrs. J. H. Young.
Gayandotte, Cabell, W. Va., Miss Nellie H. Hayship.
Hills and Jane, Gibson, Ind., Jane Gibson.
Hammettown, Daphin, Pa., Mrs. Sarah A. Kessler.
Little Sioux, Harrison, Iowa, Mrs. M. L. Neitzsch.
Polk, Venango, Pa., Miss Jennie Temple.
Riley, Vigo, Ind., Charlotte E. Leavitt.
Summit Hill, Carroll, Pa., Mrs. Sarah A. Obit.
Werner, Janes, Wis., Miss Julia C. Greenwood.
West Amesbury, Essex, Mass., Miss Jane Sargent.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid), excepting those written by officers of the government, addressed to the department with which they are connected, and on official business, to be prepaid by postage stamps on envelopes, prepayment in money being prohibited.

All drop letters must be prepaid, at the rate of two cents per half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, by postage stamps.

The single rate of postage on all domestic mail letters throughout the United States is three cents per half ounce, with an additional rate of three cents for each additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce. The former ten cent (Pacific) rate is also abolished.

Rates of letter postage between offices in the United States, and to and from Canada and other British North American Provinces.

To and from British N. A. Provinces, for distance of 100 miles or less, 10 cts. For any distance over 100 miles, 15 cts. For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged. Prepayment in money is not allowed for the British N. A. Provinces except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any matter requiring wrapping paper.

Daguerotypes, when sent in the mail, are to be charged with letter postage by weight.

Postmasters are authorized to pay for each letter the domestic postage in any seal, or to be sent from a foreign port, (not carrying the mail), two cents, and for each letter addressed to the United States brought by any vessel, on inland waters, (not carrying the mail), or brought by any seal, one cent; but to entitle the carrier to such payment the letters must be promptly delivered to the post office upon arrival. At the post office where deposited, such letters will be charged with double the rate of postage to be collected at the office of delivery; that is to say, six cents for the single weight if mailed, and four cents the single weight if delivered at the office; but if such letter has been prepaid by United States stamps from one office to another, one cent; but to entitle the unpaid balance will be charged and collected on delivery.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

Postage on Daily Papers to subscribers, when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, per quarter, (three months), 35 cts. Six times per week, " " " " 15 " For Tri-Weekly, " " " " 10 " For Semi-Weekly, " " " " 5 " For Weekly, " " " " 5 "

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS (one copy only) sent by the publisher to actual subscribers within the county where printed and published, 5 cts. over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 12 " over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 18 " Monthly, not over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 3 " over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 6 " over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 9 "

Quarterly, not over 4 oz. " " " " 3 " over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 6 " over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 9 "

PUBLISHERS OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS may send to each other from their respective offices of publication, free of postage, one copy of each publication, and may send to each actual subscriber, included in their publications, bills and receipts for the same, free of postage. They may also state on their respective publications the date when the subscription expires, to be written in red ink.

Religious, Educational, and Agricultural Newspapers of small size, issued less frequently than once a week, may be sent in packages to one address at the rate of one cent for each package not exceeding four ounces in weight, and an additional charge of one cent is made for each additional four ounces

or fraction thereof, the postage to be paid quarterly or yearly in advance.

Newspapers may pay the postage on their packages of newspapers and periodicals as received, at the same rate that actual subscribers thereto pay quarterly in advance.

Publications issued without the office of publication, containing a fictitious statement thereof, must not be forwarded by postmasters unless prepaid at the mailing office at the rates of transient printed matter.

POSTAGE ON TRANSPARENT PRINTED MATTER. Books, not over 4 oz. in weight, to one address, 2 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 8 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 12 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 18 cts.

CIRCULARS, not exceeding three in number, to one address, 2 cts.; over three and not over six, 4 cts.; over six and not over nine, 6 cts.; over nine and not exceeding twelve, 8 cts.

ON MISCELLANEOUS MAILABLE MATTER, (embracing all pamphlets, occasional publications, transient newspapers, book manuscripts and proof-sheets, when they are not wrapped or protected, whether blank, flexible, pattern, stamp cards, photographic paper, letter envelopes, envelopes or wrappers, cards, paper, plain or colored, photographic representations of all types, seals, cuttings, labels, roots, and scion,) postage, to be prepaid by stamps, is, on one package to one address, not over 4 oz. in weight, 2 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 4 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 6 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 8 cts.

All mail matter not sent at letter rates of postage, embracing books, book manuscripts, proof-sheets, and other printed matter, and all other mail matter, except seals, must be wrapped or covered with open sides or ends as to enable the postmaster to examine the package without destroying the wrapper, otherwise such packages must be rated with letter postage. No communication, whether in writing or print, can be sent with any seeds, roots, cuttings or scions, maps, engravings, or other matter not printed, except upon the separate payment of postage upon each separate matter at the established rates.

Excise newspapers and periodicals cannot be remitted without being chargeable with postage. Where packages of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office directed to one address, and the names of the subscribers to which they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance, shall be handed to the postmaster, he shall deliver the same to their respective owners. But this does not apply to weekly newspapers which circulate free in the county where printed and published.

Weekly newspapers and all other printed matter to the British North American Provinces, although sent from counties bordering the line, shall be sent at the same rates as when sent to any point in the United States.

All transient matter must be prepaid by stamps. If it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or should be sent by a post office, it shall be delivered at double the prepaid rate.

Great neglect exists in the strict quarterly prepayment of postage on printed matter sent to regular subscribers. No notice should be delivered, unless it is either prepaid at the mailing office, or at the delivery office, for at least a quarter. If not so prepaid, postmasters must collect postage on each copy as on transient matter. If it is not prepaid, it will be charged with the full postage due, and in clear cases removed from office for neglect.

To inclose or conceal a letter or other thing (except bills and receipts) in a wrapper in order to write or print anything, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage. Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marks, or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, in violation of the laws, and the date when subscription expires, subjects the package to letter postage.

POST OFFICE BLANKS.

The agencies for supplying postmasters with blanks are as follows:

DISTRICT No. 1—Supplies blanks for the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Carolina. Sole agents are George Alabama and Florida. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "J. Guest, Blank Agent, Washington, District of Columbia."
DISTRICT No. 2—Supplies blanks for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California and Oregon Territory, and Washington Territory. Postmasters in either of these States or Territories, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "Deverly Clarke, Blank Agent, New York, N. Y."

DISTRICT No. 3—Supplies blanks for the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "Deverly Clarke, Blank Agent, New York, N. Y."

When the postage collected at an office amount to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on the post bills. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$1250 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping paper and twine at the above rates.

Applications for blank registers of arrival and departure of the mails must be made direct to the Inspection Office. For special instructions, to the First Assistant Postmaster General.

All postmasters whose compensation is less than \$1250 per quarter, can purchase a reasonable quantity of wrapping paper and twine, provided the net proceeds of the office exceed twenty dollars per year. Post offices, the gross receipts of which are over \$1000 per annum, will be furnished with circular marking and rating stamps of class No. 1; less than \$1000 and over \$500, with stamps of class No. 2; less than \$500 and over one hundred, with stamps of class No. 3; and exchange post offices with stamps of class No. 4. Applications for these stamps should be made to the Appointment Office, the gross receipts of which are less than \$100 per annum, if they use rating stamps must obtain the same at their own expense.

Letter balances, upon the like application, are furnished to offices which collect in postage \$75 a year.

SAVES FOR POST OFFICES. Are allowed by the Department only in special cases, and never to any office where there are no surplus commissions. Application to be made to the Appointment Office.

EXCHANGE OFFICES FOR BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN MAILS.

New York, Boston, Albany, Troy and Portland exchange with some of the largest offices on the other side by through bags. Portland and the Route Agents thence to the Canada line exchange with the London, Hamilton, Queenstown, London, and other offices on Lake Erie; Sackett's Harbor and Oswego with Kingston, during navigation; Whitehall, Plattsburgh, Rome's Point, N. Y., and Burlington, with St. John's, Ireland and John's, Montreal; Island Pond with Montreal, Sherbrook and Route Agents. The following exchange with their nearest corresponding offices on the other side: Black Rock, corresponding British, Downs, Lewiston, Youngtown, Rochester (during summer), Cape Vincent, Morrisville, Ogdensburg, and Fort Covington, N. Y.; Richford, Franklin, Dorby Line, North Troy, Swanton, and Canada, Vt.; Cleveland, O. (with Fort Stanwix); St. Mary, Port Huron, Detroit, Rochester, Mich.; Fort Fairfield, Robinson, Calais, Houlton, and Eastport, Me.

The Stamp-Collector's Magazine, ILLUSTRATED

With fac-simile Engravings of New and Rare Stamps, will be forwarded regularly and post free to any part of the United States, on receipt of the annual subscription of One Dollar, which may be remitted in twenty unissued postage stamps. Address, STAFFORD, SMITH & SMITH, 13 George Street, Bath, England.

Time of Closing Mails at the New York Post Office.

East Mail	5:00 A. M.
"	6:00 P. M.
"	6:30 P. M.
Erie Mail (Way)	5:00 A. M.
"	2:00 P. M.
"	3:30 P. M.
Freehold and Keyport	2:00 P. M.
Long Island	5:00 A. M.
"	10:00 P. M.
Newport and Fall River	4:00 P. M.
New York Central E. R.	5:00 P. M.
North Mail	6:00 A. M.
"	3:00 P. M.
"	3:30 P. M.
South	5:00 A. M.
"	4:30 P. M.
"	10:00 P. M.
On SUNDAYS all mails close at 1 1/2 P. M.	

Mails are Due at New York Post Office.
North—Due 7:00 A. M.; 10:35, 4:45, and 9:00 P. M.
South—Due 5:15 A. M.; 12:30 P. M.; 6:30 P. M., and 10:40 P. M.
East—Due (Fall River) 7 A. M.; Railroad, (Way) (Mail) 10:45 A. M.; (Boston Express) 5:30 A. M.; 5:30 P. M., and 9:10 P. M.
West—Due 10:30 A. M., and 11:30 P. M.

Post Office Hours.
The post office opens at 7:30 A. M., and closes at 7:00 P. M. A night clerk is in attendance for the delivery of letters, when called for at any hour of the night. Application should be made at the "night window," on Nassau street. Office open on Sundays from 9 to 10 A. M., and from 1 1/2 to 1 1/2 P. M.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1. TO OR FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MALTA—Newspapers, two cents each; periodicals, two cents each; pamphlets and periodicals, two cents each if not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if exceeding two ounces; which is the United States postage only; newspapers, two cents each; periodicals, two cents each; pamphlets weighing over eight ounces, or periodicals weighing over sixteen ounces, are chargeable with letter postage. Books and all other descriptions of printed matter, are subject to letter rate of postage. Neither pamphlets nor periodicals are entitled to conveyance in the British mail, through England, to countries on the Continent of Europe.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. IV. No. 1.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1863.

WHOLE No. 37.

Post Office Appointments, etc.

By permission of the Postmaster General, we insert below portions of one of the Reports made to that officer by a committee appointed for that purpose, at a Convention of Special Agents of the Post Office Department, recently held at Cleveland, Ohio:

It was found to be the unanimous opinion of the Commission, that some radical and speedy measures of reform should be instituted in the mode of selecting and appointing post office clerks and letter-carriers, especially in our larger towns and cities, although all offices in which clerks are employed should, perhaps, be included. That the efficiency of the mail service has, at least for the last twenty years, suffered much from the manner in which these appointments have been made, there can be no doubt. Without stopping to decide what proportion of the evil has been chargeable to inexorable political rules, or to other arguments against the principle of bestowing such offices upon party friends, alone, from political considerations, we would, however, venture to suggest that the system as it has long existed, and as it now exists, could be vastly improved, and perhaps rendered in a great degree consistent with the public interest, by imposing proper checks and restraints upon the appointing power, either by the authority of the Postmaster General, or by the direct action of Congress.

Such restraints, we have no doubt, would also prove a great relief to postmasters having a large patronage thrown upon them by the acceptance of office, and yet who find themselves so situated as not to be able to exercise the greatest freedom and independence in the distribution of that patronage.

In this connection the Convention considered and unanimously adopted the following:

Resolved, That in view of the recognized principle upon which the Post Office Department is intended to be administered, namely, the greatest benefit of the commercial and domestic interests of the whole people, every precaution should be taken to enforce that principle at points beyond the immediate control of the Head of the Department, by securing fidelity, competency and efficiency on the part of those called or appointed to perform the duties of clerks, letter carriers, etc. And to this end we respectfully suggest—if in the wisdom of the Postmaster General he shall concur—a provision by Congress if necessary, requiring that before an applicant for a post office clerkship or a situation as letter-carrier shall receive such appointment, he shall be required to place in the hands of the postmaster a written statement, drawn up by himself and signed, of the nature of his business or occupation, and his locality during the three previous years; and also furnish satisfactory certificates from his former employers, for at least two years prior to said application, as to his general character and qualifications, such documents to be placed on the regular files of the office in case of the applicant's success, otherwise to be returned to him.

It is believed that the introduction of these or similar tests would very much reduce the crowd of applicants who assemble at our large post offices when it is proposed many changes are to take place, while with the really deserving and competent candidates the requirements could be easily complied with, they having character, fitness, and of course, friends at their command.

Meantime the postmaster could point to the orders of the Postmaster General or to the law, when improperly pressed by men of more influence than discretion, in behalf of persons of their selection.

These rules would also effectually prevent persons who had been dismissed from post offices for incompetency or dishonesty, from obtaining situations in other offices more or less distant, which has too often happened.

In venturing suggestions on this somewhat delicate subject, the Convention did not overlook the sentiments contained in the late Report of the Postmaster General, and the recent action of Congress and his instructions thereon, adverse to a system of too frequent and extensive changes among subordinate officers.

APPLICATIONS FOR PARDONS.
The subject of Pardons formed another topic among those considered by the Convention. After remarks in general upon this point, and a reference to some recent successful applications to the President for the exercise of Executive clemency, which it is believed originated with unscrupulous persons, who were more or less implicated in the crimes legally fastened upon the convicted party, and who relied for success mainly on fraudulent representations, the Committee remark:

It is the possibility of the success of such plottings against justice to which we would call attention, and which we respectfully suggest should hereafter be carefully guarded against. Neither the President nor the Attorney General can be expected to know more of the merits of an application than can be obtained from the papers presented, which, as before remarked, are sometimes the joint product of unjustifiable sympathy and selfishness on the part of the chief petitioners, and the still more unworthy motive of self-protection against the legitimate consequences of crime.

That appeals for Executive favor after conviction are sometimes proper and necessary is not questioned, else the pardoning power would not have been created; and where such a case is fairly made up, and presented through the proper law officers, no one would venture to say that the action of the President would not always be in accordance with strict justice and the great public interests involved.

In order to secure such fairness, and to guard effectually against attempts to avert the consequences of crime by the commission perhaps, of others quite as heinous, we would respectfully recommend that a rule be established by the President or the Attorney General, requiring that in every case of an application for pardon—especially in behalf of those convicted under the post office laws—it shall be made

through the United States Attorney for the District in which the conviction took place, who shall examine the papers carefully as to the genuineness of the signatures and the motives under which the movement originated, and after such due examination refer all the said papers, with a report and an official opinion on the same, to the Attorney General of the United States.

ROUTE AGENTS.

The great importance of the system of Route Agents in this country was also considered by the Convention, and a brief space in this Report assigned to that subject. It is believed that to this class of truly useful officers, more than to all other causes (if we except the application of steam to the conveyance of the mails, which, of course, created the necessity of the system in question), is to be attributed the wonderful improvement in the mail accommodations throughout the whole country; and on the future services of these officers must depend, in a very great measure, the continuance, prosperity, and efficiency of our postal establishment. The amount of labor they perform, and the degree of intelligence exhibited, especially by those running upon the most important routes, can hardly be estimated outside of the Department, although intelligent citizens generally have long since assigned them a rank among the most serviceable and indispensable class of officers. As to their general fidelity to their official trust, it may be mentioned as somewhat remarkable, that there have been so few cases of delinquency or dishonesty among them up to the present time. As a class they have reflected great credit upon themselves and the Department they have represented. In their behalf, then, we would earnestly advocate all deserved consideration and encouragement.

We beg leave to suggest a general equalization of salaries, and an increase of the same in proportion to the labor performed and the importance of the service, and with reference to the greatly increased expenses to which they have been compelled to submit for several years past, and which are now daily increasing. Obligated as they are to live much of the time away from their homes, and in many cases to spend a good portion of it in large cities, it seems almost impossible that with even the most rigid economy they can "make both ends meet" with the really scanty resources at their command. From a sense of duty we also express the conviction that changes among competent Route Agents, excepting for cause, should be made as seldom as possible. A correct geographical knowledge not only of the immediate territory to be supplied by each, but of other sections of country, and the best and most expeditious routes by which to dispatch mail matter passing through their hands, are things not to be thoroughly learned in a month or a year, to say nothing of other indispensable qualifications which are more or less acquired by experience alone.

REMITTANCES BY MAIL.

The committee were requested to express the united desire of the Convention that some steps should be taken by the Department to induce persons remitting money by the mails, to retain exact descriptions of the same, at least the denomination of each note, the date and number, and the name of the bank. This would greatly aid in the conviction of defrauders, who are arrested often with stolen money in their possession, as it would then be readily identified. The absence of such precaution in cases of loss, has always led to much embarrassment, while it has effectually prevented the restoration to the rightful owner, even after the recovery of money supposed to be the identical bills mailed.

It is believed that if the Department would instruct postmasters to notify the public as far as in their power, that such records of money to be mailed is indispensable, and that in cases where the rule is neglected, the Department will not feel bound to order an investigation if a loss should occur, the very important object referred to would be gained.

In almost every case of detection and arrest of a mail defrauder, sums of money of various amounts are recovered, known to have been abstracted from letters. The names of the banks and size of the bills agree with those said to have been mailed and stolen, and yet in the absence of the numbers, dates, &c., the identification is imperfect when attempted to be established either in the courts or as a sufficient ground for refunding them to the unfortunate claimants. The result is that the entire amount when large or small, has to be given up to the family or agent of the party under arrest. A distribution *pro rata* by the Department, under the law, cannot be made, as there is no proof of legal ownership, according to former decisions of the Postmaster General.

FOR THE U. S. MAIL.

DEAR SIR:—The U. S. Mail for August, is received. It is a welcome visitor, especially in this time of change of postal laws. You will confer a favor by informing me how a person is to pay his postage on a publication whose subscription expires, say 15th November, and paid to October 1st. This would be a fraction of a quarter which a postmaster cannot receive. The law is plain as to how to pay the first fraction, but not the last. I have had some trouble since the 1st of July with those who had paid up their postage to June 30, and whose subscription expired about August 1st. According to my understanding of the law, I had to charge for the full quarter. This on daily papers was high postage for some whose time expired in two or three weeks after the quarter commenced.

ANSWER.—We will once more state that it is the right of a subscriber to pay during any fraction of a quarter, at transient rates, if he prefers it. If he has paid for a quarter ending Sept. 30th, and his subscription does not expire until Nov. 1st, he can pay for each copy of the paper during October, as he receives it from the office. He can only pay in this way, or for the entire quarter to the 31st December.

ON A LETTER.—It is not strange that a letter thus addressed should have brought up in the Dead Letter Office:

Mr. Thomas Moran River Street a round by the rear of the Brown Church.

Letter Beginnings.

We recently gave our readers a chapter of "letter endings", or specimens of various styles of closing letters, as taken promiscuously from worthless missives at the Dead Letter Office. The same attentive friend who furnished them, now sends us a choice collection of "letter beginnings." They are cut from the originals, and are most of them curiosities in chirography as well as in phraseology. We give them verbatim:

Miss Creighton.—Please pardon my presumption, and if the step that I have taken should seem to you impudent, let the fascinations of romance extenuate my fault.

Dear Father.—I set my self down with pleasure to write you those few lines to let you know that we have the small fox in the family.

My Dear Friend.—I now seat myself to you you a few lines to let you know that I am well with the exception of a bad cold, and I hope that when this unexpected epistle reach you it may find you the same.

Dear, abused, neglected, and probably angry Cousin.

Dear Brother.—It seems rather funny not to have you here to be, her me.

my dear and affectionate wife I take my pen in hand to inform you that we are both well at present hoping that those few lines may find you all enjoying the same state of health.

Dear Sarah Clarissa.—I wish to send this sheet of paper to you & will enclose a remark.

Brother John.—As I am left alone to my own destruction to day I thought I would write you a few lines.

Mister Little.—Sir owing to a trecherous cuss I am in custody here.

Dear sister Lovina.—We read your last letter but not your other that you spoke off and it was to us like as manna to the children of Israel for it was all that we desired.

Miss Lizzie.—I your Beloved Sweet hart I take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know I am well and wishing you in still better health.

Dear Moll.—The hands on life's dial have numbered weeks and months, since last I heard your cheering words.

Dear uncle.—I this after noon take this opportunity of riting A few lines.

Dear Charlie.—Your short, plain English letter is received, read, re-read, daily weighed & considered, and I am going to reply promptly.

Cousin Lansing how do you do — I have a very bad cold but the rest of the family is well and I hope this will find you the same.

Dearest Sarah.—I have concluded to invite you a few lines relating to ourselves.

Dear friend Ned.—I suppose you begin to think it is time you heard from me, doubt you, or dont you think anything about it?

Dear Sir.—Why in thunder dont you answer my letter, is it because you are angry with me, or are you sick?

Dear Friend.—I take my Pen in Hand to inform you I am still in the land of the living.

I suppose you are wondering why I dont rite. I do wonder if you have not got cents enouf to put a stamp on your letter.

My Dear Lavina.—Through the tender mercy of our God, I yet remain on these mortal shores, I improve this hour in writing to you hoping that the epistle will find you likewise on the same shores.

Dear Daughter.—I now lift up my pen to address A few lines to you.

Once more sweet one, I am seat-to converse with my awl in this life. [Probably a shoe maker. Ed. MAIL.]

My Darling.—The hour having come for me to close my long day's work, I will now spend a few moments of pleasure.

My Esteemed Friend.—As the beautiful sun is shading its last rays over the Village of Shepherdsville and I am alone, I will try to answer your kind letter.

Dear Uncle John.—I know you would as soon think of hearing from the silent dead as of receiving a letter from me.

Dear Will.—I have been sitting sewing and thinking of you, but now I have put away my work and am going to write a few lines.

Dear Brother.—Comfortably seated upstairs at the desk am I to try and tell something that will be new to you.

Dear Annie.—Your most precious letter was received last Sabbath, with mingled feelings of surprise and joy it was eagerly perused.

Dear Friend Jonathan.—Did you suppose I had forgotten you entirely? Shouldn't wonder!

Dear Sir.—I resume my seat to answer your most Welcome and desirable letter.

Sir.—I find a "big" Letter does not get attention any sooner than a "Note".

Dear cousin Fannie.—I feel very much like beginning my letter with a scolding for you.

Well Mr. States.—How do you do? Very well I presume. Ha! and a benedict perhaps, no matter.

My Dear son and Daughter I thought that you was dead and your wife and your Dier littel children was murdered by the rebels and takin prisuners.

My Dear Brother.—I shall not blame thee one bit if thee scolds me right severely for not answering thy letter sooner.

Friend "Sha".—I don't hear from you any more only through some of the "fair ones", have you got married and lost all energy or, are you meditating something equally as horrible.

Coins of the United States.

THEIR DEMONINATION, AND WHEN ISSUED.—A Mint for the purpose of a national coinage was first established at the seat of the Government of the United States (then at Philadelphia), by an Act of Congress approved April 23, 1792, by which Act it was ordered, that there should be struck and coined at the Mint the following denominations of gold coins:—Eagles, each to be of the value of Ten dollars. Half Eagles, each to be of the value of Five dollars. Quarter Eagles, each to be of the value of Two dollars and a half—also the following named coin in silver:—Dollars, to be of the value of the Spanish milled dollar. Half dollar, to be half the value of the dollar. Quarter dollars, to be quarter the value of the dollar. Dimes, to be one tenth the value of the dollar, and Half dimes, to be one twentieth of a dollar. Also the following named copper coin:—Cents, each to be of the value of the one hundredth part of the dollar, and half cents, to be of the value of half a cent.

A Branch Mint for the coinage of gold and silver, was established at New Orleans, La. Also a Branch for the coinage of gold only at the town of Charlotte, in the State of North Carolina, and one Branch for the coinage of gold only, at Dahlonega in the State of Georgia, by an Act of Congress approved March 3d, 1835.

By an Act of Congress approved January 15, 1837, Eagles, Half Eagles, Quarter-Eagles, Dollars, Half-Dollars, Quarter-Dollars, Dimes and Half-Dimes, were made legal tender of payment according to their nominal value, for all sums whatever.

An Act of Congress authorizing the issuing of gold coin of the following denomination at the United States Mint and Branches, was approved March 3d, 1849. Double Eagles, each of the value of twenty dollars, and gold dollars, each to be a legal tender for one dollar.

A three cent silver coin, to be of the value of three one hundredths of a dollar, and to be a legal tender for all sums of thirty cents and under, was authorized to be coined, by Act approved March 3d 1851.

A Branch Mint for the coinage of both gold and silver, was established at San Francisco in California, under Act of July 3d 1852.

A gold coin to be of the value of three dollars, was authorized to be coined at the United States Mint and Branches, by Act of Feb. 21, 1853.

The nickel cent was introduced by Act of Feb. 21, 1857, which Act repealed the law for the coinage of the half cent.

By the same Act the quarters, eighths and sixteenths of the Spanish milled dollar were receivable at the United States Treasury as follows: The quarter or two cents, at 20 cents, the eighth or one real 10 cents, the sixteenth or half real at 5 cents, which when received were not paid out again, but coined over.

A Branch Mint for the coinage of gold only, was established at Denver, Colorado Territory, by Act approved April 21, 1862.

A Branch Mint for the coinage of gold and silver, was established at Carson City, Nevada Territory, by Act approved March 3d, 1863.

Foreign gold coin ceased to be a legal tender in the United States, from and after Nov. 1, 1853.

At the present time, silver half-dollars, quarters, dimes and half-dimes are legal tenders in payment of debts of all sums not exceeding five dollars. Act of Feb. 21, 1853.

For the U. S. Mail.

"Has Peterson's Come?"

All post offices are not in cities or large towns, and it by no means follows that nothing funny can happen in the country office at the cross roads, or the corner tavern where the landlord is only postmaster for convenience, and farms a little, and works for his neighbors a good deal, to support his family. In the south part of the town of S—, is such a tavern post office, where one of the parties to this "postal memoir", holds his court, with his boxes numbered angular and sideways, with poke-berry juice, up to the eumerals 23 in one end of the bar, while the other is left open for the ordinary business transactions incident to institutions whose special mission it is to relieve the necessities of "man and beast."

Late one cold night in November, our P. M. was awake from his slumbers by a cry, as of some person in distress, some unfortunate traveller who had broken down or was obliged from the inclemency of the weather to seek shelter for the night. He listened again, but could only distinguish the name of Peterson, called by some one from the road. The cold rain beat against the window panes but nothing daunted, our P. M. "accounted as he was," sprang from his warm couch, raised the window in the face of the blast and called out—"What's the matter?" A covered vehicle stood in the road and our P. M. could only distinguish the word Peterson among the incoherent utterances emanating from a half-choked voice in that direction. Peterson what!! exclaimed our official. Has Peterson come!! again sounded the voice above the roar of the elements.

Peterson what!! again called our P. M. with all the chilled strength of lungs he could muster: "Peterson's Naga— MAGAZINE!! of course." You needn't make so strange of it, if it's late. We know it's there, for it always come a month ahead, and my wife here wants to get the last fashions."

With an expletive not found in Webster's Unabridged, or very complimentary to the pro-

prietor of that Magazine, down came the sash, smashing the glass and opening our P. M.'s cascade to a freer ventilation, while away went the carriage with its fashionable occupants pouring out wrath and threatenings against postmasters generally, and our very unaccommodating friend in particular, who says he "generally intends to be obliging but that time he—"could not see it."

Army Correspondence.

We were in hopes, from reports in the newspapers, that some plan had been devised by our military authorities for the security of letters written to and from the army of the Potomac; but it will be seen by the following extract from a letter from an official friend in Washington, that the former facilities for dishonesty are still in force:

"No arrangement is known to exist either by an army agent or by the Post Office Department, for a general supervision over army mail matters. General Patrick, the Provost Marshal of the army of the Potomac, exercises a supervisory power over the mails in some degree, and the Department has on several occasions dispatched one of its Special Agents to investigate abuses.

"I regret to say from experience, that many developments have occurred showing a recklessness of honesty almost incredible, such as the violation of seals, obtaining registered letters by fraudulently signing the name of the parties addressed, &c. We caught one of the regimental mail carriers deliberately opening letters and abstracting money, and another in a yard, not an hour after receiving a mail, opening and destroying the letters. He is now in jail awaiting his trial. But it is unnecessary to mention more of the cases, involving the integrity of those entrusted with the military letters. It is however to be looked for to some extent, in the assembling of a large military force of one or two hundred thousand men, that many bad ones will be found reckless of feeling or character. Some system should be devised by which the temptation to do wrong might be removed or greatly lessened. I have thought much on the subject, and believe that if division postmasters were appointed by the Department, upon the recommendations of the Generals commanding, placed under oath, made accountable to the Postmaster General, and put in possession of the mail key, that many of the deceptions would be prevented. The military mails are made up in division, brigade and regimental bags, and are entrusted to these military agents, rarely secured with time, as the mail services cease with the authorized delivery of mail matter."

Letter Addresses.

ACROSTIC.
If you please, Uncle Sam, you may send this letter, Just as it is' and the quicker the better. Mind you don't open, to see what it contains, 'Cause if that you should do, you will take too much pains. Don't you see it's addressed to J. McNair's care, Upon his broad shoulders, be "two bars" doth wear. For the old 33d so noble and brave, For two years have fought the Union to save. In a very few days they will come to NEXUS, Encamp at Elmira, until they get pay.

Feels and Confels let this go free, Down to Nashville Tennessee, This 3 cent stamp will pay the cost, Until you find Sophia Post. Postmaster North, or even South, May open it and find the truth, I merely say my wife's got well, And his a baby cross as 11—U.

Far over the valley, and over the hills Hasten away to Phillip's Mills. On Sarah Johnson you there may await, Indiana County, Pennsylvania State.

In haste please have this letter go, Where mountain breezes bring soft flow On Colorado's Golden Vines. Mountain City, mind the Pine. To Agnes Keel please give in hand, In that far off and distant land; 'Twill be to her a source of joy, 'Tis from an Illinois "bould sager boy."

Postman, postman, when this letter is entrusted to your care, Look for Mistress Mary Glover, Number 40, Franklin Square, Boston, Mass, a State so fair, Tell her it is from her lover, Now blockading off "Sabine, In the gunboat named "Katahdin" Famous for her lookouts keen.

To Sallie Phillips of Morgantown, Western Virginia, County unknown. Let not this letter be delayed By "Gen'l. Order" or blockade, With Uncle Samuel's postage paid, Convey it to the aforesaid maid.

Good morning now, P. M.— please send me on my way, And I'll vote for you again when Abram's had his day, I'm packed to visit Hartford—the head of navigation, And at 97 Pearl St. I shall reach my destination, There to captain L. B. Clark I shall be pleased to go, So do not stamp me very hard, for I'm full of love you know.

Give this letter to Borden who keeps a hotel, And from what I can hear is doing very well, In Elk Hart City, Logan county Illinois, And would like to hear from some of the boys.

Mr. postmaster, 'tis my most earnest desire That you forward this letter to Will Scruby, Esquire

The place where he lives I now will reveal, 'Tis the town of Owatonna and Co. of Steele, Minnesota.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1863.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1863.

DEAR SIR.—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official order has also been made by the Postmaster-General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

As a single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in resting foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

As postmasters may sometimes hesitate to act upon the information, views and opinions furnished them through the columns of the Mail, on postal matters, we will say for the benefit of such, that upon all questions of importance about which there is the least doubt, and which are of general application, we always obtain the sanction of the proper officers of the Department before giving them publicity.

Franking by Members of Congress.

The impression seems to prevail in some post offices, that members of Congress in franking, are required to place upon the letter or document, "official business," the same as others who frank. This is not correct, for the law requires no such thing. Letters sent to them requires nothing but their address, with the initials M. C. or U. S. thereon attached. Those written and sent to them, need only bear the address, and their own name and abbreviated title. Such letter is limited to 4 ounces. If one exceeds that weight it is subject to the same rule that applies to ordinary letters and must be rated up, and the amount due, collected on delivery.

The Postmaster-General is inclined to give a liberal construction to the law granting the franking privilege to members of Congress. He therefore authorizes the transmission of packets within the prescribed weight, 4 ounces, without regard to their contents. This of course includes newspapers in sealed wrappers or envelopes.

MISSISSIPPI RIVERS.—The Contract Office, by direction of the Postmaster-General, has recently issued an Order in reference to mail matter destined for places on the Mississippi River. It directs:—

1st. That all mail matter for points on the Mississippi river between Cairo, Ill. and New Orleans, La. shall be sent *via* Cairo.

2d. That all mails, except those from Atlantic ports, for New Orleans or for the Gulf Squadron, shall be sent *via* Cairo.

3d. That letters, &c., from Atlantic ports, for New Orleans or for the Gulf Squadron, shall continue to be sent by sea, unless otherwise directed by the writers.

Explanation.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
APPOINTMENT OFFICE, Sept. 8, 1863.

The publication of the following construction of the new postal law in regard to the weight of packages which may be sent free through the mails is deemed important to the public, and especially to persons connected with the several Executive Departments and Bureaus at Washington:

"The maximum weight of packages which may be sent through the mails is limited to four pounds, except Congressional documents and books published or purchased by order of Congress. It was not the intention of the law to prescribe a smaller limit to franked packages to or from any of the Executive Departments or Bureaus, as that would exclude from the mails a large portion of the official correspondence of the government.

"The limitation of packages to four ounces, in the forty-second section of the law, was intended to enlarge the privilege of members of Congress, heretofore limited to two ounces; and the omission in the printed law of the words 'to senators and members of Congress' (as in the original bill) after the word 'granted,' in the last sentence of that section, leads to an erroneous construction of the true intent and meaning of the law.

"The Postmaster-General therefore directs that all packages otherwise entitled to go free, to and from the several executive departments bureaus at Washington, and not exceeding four pounds in weight, be allowed free transmission through the mail.

ALEX W. RASTALL,
First Assistant Postmaster-General.

We are obliged to omit several communications until our next issue. Contributors will please condense their articles as much as is consistent, as our space is limited. We expect it will not always be as much so.

Who may Frank.

There would seem to be a determination on the part of a class of correspondents not to understand the requirements of the postal act of last March respecting the franking privilege and the forms to be observed in addressing matter entitled by law to pass free in the mails.

First.—No private citizen, high or low, can send a letter or document of any kind, or any other thing, to any officer or public man at Washington or elsewhere (excepting to members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives) without prepaying the full postage thereon, whether such matter is upon official business or otherwise. He must prepay letters to the President of the United States, his Cabinet officers, and all others in public stations, with the above exceptions. The franking privilege of members of Congress has not been materially changed, and covers all correspondence to and from them as heretofore.

Second.—All persons employed in the government service may send official letters free to the department at Washington with which they are officially connected, and to no other department, provided they write or print the words "official business" on the envelope of the letter, and also sign their name and official designation thereto. If these words and signature, or either of them, be omitted, such letter must be sent to the Dead Letter Office, which, we regret to say, happens daily in all large post offices. Some of these unlucky missives and parcels are addressed to President Lincoln, the Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of War, Adjutant General, Quartermaster General and other high officials. No doubt some of them are written by private citizens (who, it has already been shown, must prepay every thing they mail), and others by public officers, who, from ignorance of the law or carelessness, do not comply with the prescribed modes of franking, or fail to confine their use of the frank to their own departments. An officer of the army, for instance, cannot send free to the Navy Department, nor can a postmaster frank to the Treasury Department.

The publication of the above information has the authority of the Postmaster-General.

Fictitious Letters.

Mr. EDITOR.—You say in your last, that all letters the addresses of which are known to be fictitious, must be sent to the Dead Letter Office. Now are there no exceptions allowed in the execution of this order of the Department? Suppose an officer of the law, State or National, desires to substitute a fictitious signature for his own, for purposes of justice, such as the detection of a criminal, for instance, a murderer, forger, burglar, swindler and the like. Should the delivery of such letters be refused?

We reply that the Department undoubtedly expects that a postmaster will use some option in carrying out the rule referred to, in cases like the one stated, and when the parties are well known who wish to use the post office as an auxiliary for such strictly legal purposes as those cited. As a rule however, it deems the use of a fictitious name as *prima facie* evidence of a fraudulent design of some sort, and therefore declines to supply facilities for any such frauds.

While on this subject we will refer to an inquiry from another quarter, touching answers to "matrimonial advertisements," which answers are well understood to be sent to assumed addresses. When this is known to be the fact, we do not hesitate to say that this class of letters come within the rule, and should be sent to Washington. It is certain that the mails were never intended to be used for fraudulent or clandestine correspondence of any kind. There is quite enough of it carried on under genuine signatures and addresses, but the Department does not presume to impose any restrictions upon letters thus properly addressed.

Making of Mails.

Many postmasters are in the habit of strangely taking up their letters sent to New York and other distribution offices. In many cases the packages contain letters for delivery and distribution, and when sent to offices at which foreign mails are made up, foreign letters are also included in the same wrapper. Especially in large offices the letters should be put up in separate packages, and marked "Foreign." This is not only a great convenience to the receiving office, but it often greatly facilitates such correspondence, as when mixed up with domestic or distribution letters, instead of going directly into the hands of the foreign clerks, more time is required in giving the letters the right direction, and thus sometimes they miss the intended steamer.

Letters for California, also Canada, Vancouver's Island and other British North American Provinces, and the Sandwich Islands, should not be sent among "foreign" letters, but placed in the packages of ordinary letters for distribution. There is a saving of time when so sent, as letters for the places named are not made up by the foreign clerks.

Hon. A. N. ZEVELY.—A friend writes us from Saint Joseph, Mo., under date of August 31st, that "our worthy Third Assistant P. M. General, Hon. A. N. Zevely, left here yesterday for the Plains, by overland mail coach. He intends moving along the route very leisurely, for which the company have furnished him a special coach. He will probably extend his trip as far as Fort Bridger, Utah, and possibly as far as Salt Lake City." Mr. Zevely, as before stated, is traveling mainly for the benefit of his health. Meantime, Dr. MACDONALD continues Acting Third Assistant.

During the illness of Mr. McLELLAN, E. L. CHILDS, Esq., the Chief Clerk of the Contract Office, has been the Acting Second Assistant Postmaster-General. We are rejoiced to learn that Mr. McLELLAN's health is gradually improving. The duties of the Contract Office and in fact of the entire Department, are steadily increasing.

Gratis use of Boxes.

PUBLISHER OF U. S. MAIL.—Since the recent changes in the rates of postage upon all transient printed matter have rendered the stamped newspaper wrappers comparatively useless, will the Department exchange them for the new two-cent stamps just issued? If not, what will be done with those on hand?

Again: in this office is a case containing a small number of boxes which are for the most part used by the patrons of the office without any charge by me. Now, under the new law we are required to return under oath the number of boxes, and the amount received for their use every quarter. As you readily perceive, I receive nothing for box rent. What am I to do in the premises? If I notify those using them that a stated sum is required as box rent, perhaps one-fourth of the whole will pay it and the balance will remain unused. Now it is perhaps as much benefit to me as to the patrons of the office to have those boxes all used. Must I therefore demand a certain sum for box rent from all who use them? If so, how much? The instructions shed no light upon this point. Please publish this with such answers as you may think proper—then I shall find it in the columns of your valuable and interesting paper.

Answer.—The Department has already authorized an exchange of letter envelopes which may have been spoiled by reason of erroneous direction, or from any other cause prior to the use thereof, as a cover for correspondence. They are allowed to be exchanged for postage stamps. See letter in another column, from the Acting Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

One-cent newspaper wrappers and envelopes may be made available by the addition of stamps to cover the postage required under the new law. For this purpose, such number of one-cent stamps as postmasters may respectively require will be furnished by the Department. No attention will be given to applications for stamps of this denomination unless the purpose for which they are desired be distinctly and satisfactorily stated.

Box RENTS.—We have often stated that although such rents have to be collected quarterly in advance, and reported among other items of emoluments, yet they are to be retained by the postmaster as heretofore. Offices where the amount for boxes exceeds \$2,000 per annum, are of course exceptions, as to the excess of that sum.

The law clearly indicates that the use of boxes cannot be gratuitously given, for the seventh section requires that a postmaster shall state in the affidavit accompanying his returns, that his quarterly account "exhibits truly and faithfully the entire receipts of his office which have been collected thereat, and the entire sum which could have been, by due diligence, collected thereat."

A Dark Business.

Some months ago, letters addressed to one of the largest Insurance Companies in New York frequently failed to reach their proper destination, and complaint being made by the officers of the company, it was found on investigation that a colored porter in their employ was entrusted with the duty of receiving their correspondence from their post office box, and that circumstances pointed strongly to him as the deprecator. This fact was stated to the President, who, however, refused to entertain for a moment the suggestion of the possible dishonesty of the porter, who was a man of good education, a prominent member of the church, and who had been in the employ of the Company for upwards of six years, having in that time, by his correct deportment, gained the entire confidence of all connected with the establishment. The President declined even to have the man's integrity made the subject of experiment. Efforts were then made to account for the losses in other ways, but without effect. About a month since, however, a circumstance occurred which unexpectedly led to the disclosure of the cause of the mysterious disappearance of the letters.

A complaint was received at the post office that a letter addressed to a young lady, directed to the care of a gentleman connected with another insurance company with a name very similar to the one first mentioned, had by some means come into the possession of the wrong party, who, after opening it, had added a postscript to this effect:

"Dear Miss —, pardon me for opening your letter, and by way of apology accept a sweet kiss."

The letter had then been enclosed in another envelope, and redirected to its proper address. Of course the lady and her friends were indignant at this outrage, and desirous of discovering its author. An examination of the original envelope showed that an important part of the name of the insurance company had been nearly obliterated by the post-mark—so that it might easily be supposed to be intended for the company who employed the colored gentleman referred to, and be placed in their box. Acting upon this hypothesis, the gentleman in charge of the investigation procured a quantity of the porter's handwriting, and after a brief comparison with the address on the second envelope, was satisfied that they were written by the same person. A private interview with the porter followed—and after denying stoutly, for about half an hour, all connection with the matter, he at last confessed his guilt, and also admitted himself to be the cause of all the numerous losses of his employers' letters. The President, a kind-hearted gentleman, was deeply grieved at this discovery of the unworthiness of one in whom he had reposed such entire confidence, and at first could scarcely credit the fact. The ungrateful rascal was without excuse for his conduct, as he was in receipt of a salary amply sufficient for his support, and larger, probably, than that of any other colored man

in the city. By yielding to temptation he has destroyed a reputation worth a thousand fold the amount of his petty pilferings, ruined his prospects, and disgraced his family in addition to rendering himself liable to severe legal punishment.

CHICAGO, Sept. 28, 1863.

SIR.—Please turn to section 18 of the new postal law and regulations, and state whether, in your opinion, the instructions therein in regard to collecting postage in advance on regular newspapers, &c., apply to those publications subscribed for for a term of three months, supposing that the beginning of the term commences subsequent to the commencement of a quarter. I do not suppose that the design of the section is to compel payment of a greater sum than that which the law declares shall be charged upon such matter, but rather that it is designed to explain and enforce the method of collecting from subscribers for *continuous* terms. For it would be manifestly unjust to compel a subscriber for a term of three months, if his subscription commenced, say, Aug. 1st, to pay postage for five months as directed in sec. 18. The law in sec. 35 declares that the postage on a weekly paper, for instance, if paid in advance either at the office of mailing or delivery, shall be "five cents for each quarter of the year." This is conclusive as to the charge; and it seems to me that section 18 is simply designed to instruct (post masters) how and when that tax shall be levied and collected if the term extends beyond a quarter. No other fair construction can be put upon it, because it is a maxim in jurisprudence that no law can be inconsistent with itself; hence, when seeming contradictions appear, the true interpretation is to be found in the obvious intent of the whole. This is, doubtless, the relationship which sections 18 and 35 bear to each other.

A subscriber, therefore, to a paper, or other publication, for three months, at the expiration of which term he ceases to receive the publication, can be charged only the specified rate for that term, irrespective of the date of commencement of the term.

B. G. A.

ANSWER.—If we fully understand our friend's query, it is this: A party orders a newspaper or other publication for the term of three months only, and the subscription commences on the 1st of August, instead of the 1st of July, or at the beginning of what is called an official quarter. Is it the intention of the law or instructions to apply, in such a case, the rule laid down for those who order papers, &c., without any special limitation, and who expect to go on from quarter to quarter, or from year to year?

We venture to say that the rule does not apply to the three months, 1st of August man. He should pay in advance for the then current quarter, that is, from the 1st of July to the 31st of September, or else be required to pay transient rates until his three months have expired. Fractional quarters in respect to printed matter, are not to be recognized. This is for the convenience of post masters as well as the Department, and is considered a just principle.

The above explanation is sanctioned by the Department.

We have received a second interesting letter from our somewhat eccentric traveling friend, "Monsieur Tonson." We are sorry it was not received earlier, and before the report of the printer, that he had more than sufficient matter prepared for the present number of the Mail.

We think all is right with Monsieur, still we have an additional reason for suggesting a proper watchfulness, when any one answering the description which he has himself furnished of his person, makes his appearance at post offices or about the mails—which is, that we now learn that his legitimate pecuniary resources are hardly sufficient to allow of his being an amateur postal reformer, serving the public gratuitously.

DETROIT AND MILWAUKEE.—We have received some statistics of the amount of business transacted in two of our large post offices at the West, namely Detroit, Mich., and Milwaukee, Wis. We have room only for the principal items for the year ending June 30, 1863:

DETROIT.—Whole number of letters sent during the year—944,108. Transient newspapers sent, 179,117. Amount collected on regular newspapers, \$972,21. Circulars sent—93,443. Amount of stamps sold—\$62,937 37.

MILWAUKEE.—Letters sent in same year—956,326. Transient papers, 155,841. Amount collected on regular newspapers, \$1,515 11. Circulars sent—355,651. Stamps sold, \$63,283 45.

INK PADS.—The best and cheapest pads for use in post offices, can be made of the composition used in manufacturing printers ink rollers. The ink pad can be cast in a tin dish or pan, first oiling the pan so that the composition can easily be got out when a new one is needed. This material is found to be far superior to cloth or skin of any kind. The ink can be transferred to the pad and "distributed" by the use of a small cloth ball or pad.

The stamping pad can be made of the same material as the ink pad, larger of course, and will be found equal to India rubber, for a stamping block.

ARREST OF POST OFFICE DEBILARS.—We have received from special agent Van Vechten, an account of the arrest by him, at Ripon, Wis., on the 15th ult., of three persons, on a charge of having burglariously entered the post office at that place on the night of July 13, and purloined about \$160 in money and stamps and letters. Their names are John J. Bowen, Deputy P. M., Joseph Hollingsworth, a clerk in the store in which the post office was located, and Harry D. Winsor, who kept a news depot in the front of the office. The latter has confessed his guilt, and the trial of the parties will take place in January next. We regret that want of space prevents our publishing the interesting details of the case which Mr. Van Vechten has furnished us.

There has been an unusual number of depredations in some portions of the West, within the past year.

Miscellaneous Information.

A batch of inquiries of more or less importance having been sent by a postmaster, we referred the same to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, and have received the following answers:

No. 1. To enable newspapers to be mailed at the regular quarterly rates of postage, such papers must be sent from a known office of publication to actual subscribers.

2. Newsdealers cannot be classed with publishers, in regard to mailing papers to subscribers; nor can they be permitted to send papers addressed to different individuals in the same package, not exceeding four ounces in weight, for two cents.

3. Any number of papers not exceeding four ounces in weight, may be sent to one address, at a prepaid postage of two cents.

4. All grades of "Photographic representations" on paper or other flexible material, may be sent at a prepaid postage of two cents for each four ounces; unless they are enclosed in cases or boxes. When enclosed in cases or boxes, letter postage must be charged.

5. The 18th section of the new law requires that a full quarter's postage on regular newspapers and periodicals shall be paid before delivery. If paid at any other time than the beginning of a quarter, that is to say, on the 1st day of January, April, July, and October, it must be paid to the end of the next following quarter, or treated as transient matter. The law and regulation are both clear upon this point.

6. Miscellaneous printed matter (except circulars and books) may be sent in one package to one address, not exceeding 4 ounces in weight, at a prepaid postage of two cents.

7. The requirements of instruction No. 19, and the latter clause of No. 36, do not require any further account to be sent to the Department than what the transcripts of the regular accounts of mails received and sent, and the blanks for regular and transient papers furnish. The modification required by the new law should be made in the headings of these blanks by postmasters, until the new forms are received. But the record prescribed by section 4 of the law, should be carefully kept in each post office.

GIVES IT UP.—From the following note written us by a prominent postmaster in Pennsylvania, it would seem that he has been a little "stuffy" about ordering the Mail, believing no doubt, that he could "skull his own office" without any such aid. We think he is not the only one who has practiced the same sort of independence, to their own inconvenience, perhaps, like our reticent friend of the Keystone State. Some dislike, no doubt, to admit that their postal knowledge is not complete, and others think they are doing their entire duty when they follow what laws, instructions, &c., they may happen to have in their possession. They do not take into account the liability to constant changes in many of the details of our postal system, and the impossibility of the Department notifying 2,900 postmasters of each of those changes, and as promptly as the public interests require.

Those who have been in the habit of relying more or less on the MAIL, tell us that the saving of correspondence with the Department, pays them many times the cost of subscription. Should the following meet the eye of any postmaster who has had a similar experience, we hope he will adopt the remedy here suggested, and allow us to send him our monthly sheet regularly.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL.—SIR.—Enclosed you will please find one dollar, for which you will send to my address your valuable paper. I should have subscribed for this before, but thought I could get along without it. After a time I have thought differently; I could have saved myself a deal of trouble. I find we must live and learn.

L. B. P., Postmaster.

NEW YORK POST OFFICE.—Some idea may be formed of the immense correspondence of this great metropolis, from the annexed statement furnished us by the Superintendent of the Stamp Department, showing the sales of stamps, &c., during the year ending Sept. 30, 1863:

Amount of postage stamps sold, \$853,333.46; amount of stamped envelopes, 29,833.32; amount of newspaper wrappers, 6,139; total, \$946,806.78.

Notice.

The attention of postmasters at seaports, and also at inland towns, on water routes, is especially called to the requirements of the 31st section of the new postal law. This section has reference only to steamboats and vessels not engaged in carrying the mail; and the instructions appended thereto, which should be strictly and literally carried out, apply solely to letters conveyed by such boats or vessels.

There has been no legislation in regard to letters conveyed by regular mail boats, except in one particular, to wit:—The fee formerly paid to mail carriers, for collecting way letters on regular mail routes, has been abolished. Hence no material change is made in the old regulations with reference to letters of this class.

All letters placed on a mail steamboat, on which the mails are in charge of a Route Agent, should be delivered to such Agent; and for these letters the master of the vessels is not entitled to receive any compensation. None but prepaid letters should be received on such steamboats and these should be duly mailed. But should any unpaid letters be received through inadvertence, they must be deposited by the Route Agent in the first post office at which he arrives, where they are to be treated by the postmaster as any other unpaid letters conveyed in the mails. When there is no Route Agent on board, the commanding officer of the boat must deliver any way letters into the first post office at which he may arrive. If he fail to do so, he renders himself liable to a penalty of \$50, and the owner or owners of the boat to a penalty of \$100 for each offence of this nature: see Sec. 10, Act 3, March 1845.

Letters enclosed in Government stamped envelopes may be carried out of the mail, on a regular mail boat, provided the stamps thereon are equal in value and amount to the rates of postage to which such letters would be liable if sent in the mail. See Act 31, Aug. 1852.

Letters can also be lawfully carried outside the mail which relate to some part of the cargo then conveyed by such steamboat.

Post office burglaries continue. The office at Williamstown, Mass., was broken open on the night of the 3d inst. The robbers were very particular in their selection of letters, taking only thirty or forty supposed to be valuable. But even in this they are believed to have been disappointed.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. IV. No. 2.

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1863.

WHOLE No. 38

Answering Letters.

Success in the game of battledore and shuttlecock requires unremitting attention on the part of each player to keep the shuttlecock flying. Thus only can the triumph of a long score be achieved. So in correspondence by letter, if the epistolary shuttlecock be suffered to come to the ground, there is at least an interruption of the game; and considering how many evils, great and small, may arise from the neglect of either player, a few words on the subject may not be out of place. Our remarks apply principally to correspondence other than that of business, for he who has not yet learned the absolute necessity of promptness in such matters, has hardly reached his A B C.

Communicating by letter is a sort of conversation; and what kind of social entertainment would that be which should be carried on as many conduct their correspondence? A asks a question, or makes a remark, which B receives in profound and prolonged silence, and when A's patience is nearly exhausted the reply comes, garnished with a host of apologies, good, bad, or indifferent. In this halting style are the epistolary demands of friendship too frequently met. When both correspondents are habitually delinquent, the game is equal. But in the course of events it does not ordinarily happen that the negligent ones are pitted against one another. Were this the case, the inconvenience suffered on either side might possibly reform both. But we generally find that one of the pair is an innocent victim to the carelessness of the other. A person who is only moderately punctual and methodical is vexed and irritated if his correspondent does not at least come up to his standard of method and punctuality. The subject of their correspondence may not be on matters of great importance, but his friend owes him a letter, and until he receives it he fancies all kinds of causes for the delay. If his temper is suspicious, he conjectures that his friend's affection is cooling, or that he is vexed about something, or that he considers the correspondence not worth keeping up. Or, if he takes a more charitable view, he is distressed to think that some calamity may have occurred—the sickness of his friend, the loss of his wife or child, or some other great misfortune.

On the other hand, the delinquent is often driven to all kinds of excuses and subterfuges to smooth over his neglect, and to persuade his correspondent, if not himself, that his want of punctuality had some sort of plausible foundation. He may assert that he was overwhelmed with business, which may be true, for some persons are very easily overwhelmed in this way. A mole-hill of business seems a mountain of difficulty. He may plead absence from home, when an *alibi*, although as indispensable as Mr. Waller, Sen., considered it to be in the Plovakian breach of promise case, could not possibly be established. Or, shifting the burden of his sin of omission to the broad and much-enduring shoulders of Uncle Sam, the delinquent may affirm that he actually wrote and mailed a letter, or that he failed to receive the one which his friend wrote. In either case, maledictions descend upon the Post Office Department, which an examination of the books would show to be undeserved. Sickness may be made to serve as a scape-goat, and a slight headache may form a nucleus for an enormous aggregate of imaginary suffering.

If any of our readers have been guilty of "dodges" like these, we exhort them to immediate reform. The poorest letter is better than the most ingenious evasion. A friend of ours once assigned an unique reason for his delinquency, namely, that he carried the unnumbered letter in his pocket so long, that it was worn out before he was ready to answer it.—But we do not propose to offer models of excuses, hoping that we shall always find our correspondents models of punctuality, which blessing we heartily wish to all our readers.

Mail Robber Sentenced.

John R. Forrest, postmaster at Ferrine, Mercer County, Pa., was convicted at the October term of the United States District Court at Pittsburgh, of robbing the mails passing through that office. There were two indictments against him one for opening, secreting and embezzling valuable letters; and another for unlawfully detaining and delaying packages. On the first he was sentenced to ten years imprisonment in the Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, and on the second to one month's imprisonment and to pay a fine of fifty dollars. Martha Forrest, the wife of the postmaster, was also indicted, but the technical presumed presence of the husband who opened the mails (although it was proven he was not in the office when the mails were opened) presented an opening for escape, and the jury acquitted her. Great credit is due to Special Agent S. B. Row, for the manner in which he discovered the robberies and brought them to light,—he having made the discoveries detected the guilty party, arrested him, had him tried, convicted and sentenced, within a period of four weeks.

Monsieur Tonson, Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO,
October, 1863.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL:—Before I commence the promised pen-pictures of postmasters, I think it essentially necessary to advert to the customs and abuses which obtain in many of their offices through their indifference, absence, or ignorance. A part of my self-imposed task is to walk about depôts and peer into post offices, and with my hands crossed behind me, and my eyes-glasses nicely adjusted, I see and hear so many things connected with the mismanagement of mails and mail matter, that it seems almost a miracle that so few letters are lost or stolen, or that so little mischief is done.

In the inland cities and towns, mail boxes, pouches and sacks are kicked and tumbled out of the cars with as much indifference as if they were old shoes; and big-footed hirelings seem to take as much pleasure in trampling and jumping on them as swine do in wallowing through the mire. Through the carelessness of those who know better, the locks are not properly snapped sometimes, and fly off when the bags are thrown on the platform. I think every lock ought to be examined before it leaves the office—but that, of course, is not my business. I know there are many valuable sent by mail in the way of photographs and trinkets from our brave soldiers in the field, and many of these last sad, sacred gifts from a dying father, husband, brother, or son, are crushed to atoms by the heavy heels of these reckless railroad roughs.

At country stations, in the absence of feet, the mail carriers generally make a seat of the bags, and with their obtuse angles comfortably accommodated they exhaust the time, while the train waits, in staring at the passengers, and in ejecting tobacco juice from between their teeth at a knot-hole or crack in the building, in which latter delectable employment they doubtless continue until the cars are out of sight. On two occasions I have ventured to expostulate with employes in my mildest style—mine was a labor of love—but it did not meet its merited reward. Judge ye. To a big fellow who was standing on a bag I remarked—"My dear man, you may do some injury there." Looking over his left shoulder at me, with his head and body at right angles, he replied in a full and loud voice, "dry up." Knowing the utter impossibility of a man weighing about two hundred pounds avoiding compliance with such a request, I retired.

On another occasion a mail bag was thrown from a car, and caught by an old woman who was performing the functions of mail carrier. Fearing that a repetition might result injuriously to her some time or other, and regarding myself in the light of a philanthropist, I thrust my head out of the well-filled car window, and said in the softest tone I could assume, "My dear woman, you ought not to catch that heavy mail in your arms in that way." Peering at me over her great round spectacles, she squeaked out, so that everybody could hear her, "Don't worry trouble, Pop. I catohed a wuss nute nor that in my arms forty year ago." The general laugh that ensued as I hastily drew in rather disconcerted me; but the shrill scream of the starting engine called attention from me, and I soon recovered my equanimity. Possibly I was served right for my unauthorized interference.

At many places where railroad companies employ the mail carriers, the local post office authorities seem to neither know nor care what they do with the mails. They not only do not exercise vigilance or authority in the premises, but I believe they regard it as *infra dig.* to be seen in company with such United States property outside of their offices. And then again there is so much *etiquette* (?) observed between the post office and railroad people as to whose duty it is, or is not, to lift bags from platforms and throw them into the cars, that only the intervention of high authority at the last moment saves them from being left behind, through the "I-wont-pick-it-up"—"Then-let-it-lay-and-be-d—d"—stubbornness of these high waymen.

Postmasters are generally familiar with these things, but give themselves no uneasiness. But it is not right. I don't like to see it. I think postmasters should be made to feel that the safety of the mails is their first care under all circumstances—(on this subject more in a future letter)—and the good management and strict discipline of their offices the next but not less important.

I don't like to see a post office converted into a club room, or lounging place for friends and acquaintances.

I don't like to see particular friends come in the "back way" and help themselves to their mail matter, instead of being properly served by sworn clerks at the boxes.

I don't like to see anybody but sworn officials, no matter how "highly respectable," "influential," or "honest" they may be, finging packages in post offices; and I think it shows great weakness and inefficiency in a postmaster to permit it.

I don't like to see post office people doing their work with agars in their mouths, tears in their eyes, and the limited light of the place obscured by tobacco smoke, while the floor is strewn with waste paper, among which half-consumed matches are flung, after the agars are ignited.

I don't like to see lazy, ill-natured clerks snappishly turning women and children, and timid men from the delivery, growling out "Nothing," without rising or looking.

I don't like to see the same humbly-clad females driven from the window daily by a clerk saying—"No, there's nothing for you," without examining the recently received letters, when heart-strings are perhaps on the point of snapping with anxiety and hope deferred.

Yours truly,

MONSIEUR TONSON.

More Letter Endings.

We append a few more samples of the different forms adopted by correspondents to conclude their epistles. We are indebted for them to the kindness of our friend, Mr. INGRAM, of the Dead Letter Office:

O it is fore a thousand tongs to tell
how I love you and how well
right to me Good bye

Everybody is well. Let's take a drink, yours
ever Joe.

Come Soon. So Good knight Jo

If not agreeable Pleas Forgive Yours Trnly
G. W.

I guss you may kiss the baby for me. From
Mattie

Your generous heart must excuse this one
hamd writing Adieu F L

Well I must close as I have about run out of
gab Good by I remain your loving Broth
James

Guess the school is out any bow Your fol-
low student, J. H.

From ynr friend every day Derinda

don't write me a letter with a gold pen if they
all write as bad as Helens letter is wrote Good
bye I will write more next time S B

I will bid you good night and seal it with a
kiss Mary A B come soon

Remember me kindly to your lady, and don't
forget me yourself in your "sniffers" of which
I hope you will not in your excessive joy, in-
dulge too freely Amen!!

no more at present from your Affectionat
Aunt to Death Margret write soon

from your Ofek wife Mary

May God protect you in transit to me and aid
me in rendering you happy with your own
loved Mitt lu haste

And now with kindest love to all friends—
and my heart for your dear self—I am Your
Sissy.

Postage Stamp Items.

A correspondent of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, published at Bath, England, gives some statistics in regard to postage stamps, from which it appears that "the total number of varieties in existence amounts to sixteen hundred and forty-eight, which are issued by eighty-six countries. Of these stamps, England and her colonies issue four hundred and one, two hundred and ninety-one of which bear the head of Queen Victoria. Five hundred and thirty-two stamps bear the head of the sovereign of the country to which they belong. Seventy-one bear the head of some great man connected with the country, as Columbus, Washington, &c. Four hundred and eighty-seven are impressed with the arms of their country. The rest have some emblems, as the figures of Britannia, Liberty, &c. America uses about two hundred and fifty private stamps, and Hamburg about fifty, but their numbers are rather uncertain. Ninety-eight essays, or trial stamps, have been made, twenty-nine of which are English."

We are at a loss to know what stamps are referred to as bearing the head of Columbus—certainly none in this country; but we think the hint a good one, and hope to see it acted on by some of the designers of future issues of American stamps.

Another writer in the same Magazine (the contributors to which seem to be afflicted with a chronic tendency to blunders in regard to American matters in general, and American postage stamps in particular), gravely informs his readers that the new two-cent stamps "bear the head of President Lincoln," while a third delivers himself of the following sapient remark: "For marketable purposes, doubtless, the *New-Yorkers* seem to multiply essays of their stamps in all colors. We have just seen the large-headed two-cents repeated in six different colors, and the thirty-cents, &c., in green and blue, as well as black." We think that will do as a "solid chunk" of the wisdom of English writers when referring to this country.

Mr. ERROR.—If a soldier's unpaid letter, properly certified, arrives at my post office, must I charge double the prepaid rates on delivering the letter?

Answer.—No. The 27th section of the new law expressly provides to the contrary. We have answered this question several times before.

A New Dodge.

A short time since a firm extensively engaged in the drug and medicine business in New York, (Messrs S. R. Vandner & Co.) were called on by a respectable-looking, elderly gentleman, who proposed to sell them quite a large quantity of a certain well-known patent medicine, at a considerable reduction from the established wholesale price. The articles were examined by Messrs. V. & Co., and found to be apparently in good order, and a purchase was about to be made, when it occurred to the more cautious of the partners to suggest that the matter had better be postponed until the genuineness of the medicine should be established by writing to the proprietor in the city of Boston, and sending him by express a sample of the article offered. To this proposition the respectable-looking gentleman assented at once, furnished a sample, and left the store, promising to call in a day or two and complete the sale, as soon as his goods were proved to be the "Simon Pure" article.

The letter to Boston was written and posted by V. & Co., and the sample sent to the express office and received for; but after waiting a day or two without receiving either an answer from the proprietor of the medicine, or a call from their elderly friend, they wrote again, and soon ascertained that neither the letter nor sample had been received at their destination! An inquiry at the post office led to the discovery that late in the afternoon of the day on which the letter was mailed, a gentleman answering the description of the would-be vendor of medicine called and requested the favor of being allowed to alter the address of a letter he had that day mailed, directed to Boston, as an important error had occurred in the superscription. His manner was so self-possessed, and his story was so plausibly told, that he was allowed the privilege, and after making an entire alteration in the address of the letter, expressed his thanks for the courtesy extended to him, and departed. The letter was the one written by Messrs. V. & Co., inquiring as to the genuineness of the medicine! The express office was also visited by the same individual, and the sample in some unaccountable way, spirited off. The fact was, that the article offered was "bogus," and the counterfeiter had adopted this ingenious means to prevent the detection of his fraud. All search for the red-rected letter proved unavailing, it having probably been taken from the Boston post office by an accomplice.

This case should serve as a warning to all postmasters and clerks to exercise the utmost caution in allowing any person to withdraw, redirect, or in any way tamper with letters which have been deposited for mailing. The only safe rule is to require, in all cases where applications of this nature are made, the production of a facsimile of the envelope and a copy of the address in the handwriting of the letter, before allowing even a well-known person to have access to it for any purpose. In the British and Canadian post offices, a letter once mailed, is never allowed to be withdrawn under any circumstances; and while we think this precaution unnecessarily harsh, and its enforcement liable, in many cases, to produce great inconvenience and even serious trouble, it is well to keep in view the importance of using the utmost care to prevent frauds of the kind which we have related above. In a majority of cases, the writing of a second letter would be sufficient to explain any errors in the first.

OBITUARY NOTICE.—A friend sends us the following notice of the sudden death of one of the chief clerks in the post office at Milwaukee, Wis:

On Saturday afternoon, October 3, 1863, about 2 o'clock, Mr. Charles C. Chamberlain, the chief distributing clerk of the post office in this city, died at his boarding house, on Main street.—The deceased was taken ill on Thursday morning last, while distributing the Eastern mail, and from that time became worse until his death took place. Mr. Chamberlain had been in the Milwaukee post office for nearly thirteen years, having served under five—if not six—postmasters. For the past few years he had almost the entire charge of the distributing department, his unvarying correctness and reliability eminently fitting him for that position. Our intercourse with the deceased extends back for twelve years, and during that whole time we can say, what hundreds of others would corroborate—he was invariably obliging and courteous. His long experience in the post office had made him so thoroughly familiar with the department in which he was placed, that his services were almost invaluable. He leaves a wife and three children, now in California, whether it was the intention of the deceased to have gone in January next. To this voyage—to the meeting of his family and a brother in that far-off State—the deceased looked forward with hopeful joy. Death struck him in the discharge of his duty—a duty always faithfully and cheerfully discharged.—Uncle Sam never had a more honest servant, nor were the public ever served by a more courteous and kind clerk.

The deceased was a native of Catskill, Green county, N. Y.

Oswego, N. Y.—The postmaster of this flourishing place informs us that, for the quarter ending 30th September last, there were mailed at that office over 30,000 letters.

Letters to Soldiers.

We have alluded more than once to this subject, and we trust that that the perusal of the following timely remarks, which we have lately met with, may serve to remind some reader of a neglected duty:—

"I can always fight best after a rousing letter from home," exclaimed a young officer to his comrades, his lip quivering and his eye moistening with the love and patriotic glow caught from the pages of an open letter. Ah, nothing cheers the soldiers like letters from home. Our soldiers are not soldiers of fortune, whose home is in the barracks or on the field; but improvised for this great occasion from the workshop and the farm, from the bar and counting room, from the bosom of affectionate families and all the sweet amenities of peaceful and happy life. At their country's call they have left all these for the perilous risks and wearing fatigues of war, and no wonder if heart sometimes fails them in the now and arduous career. What mental and moral stimulus will best sustain and animate their drooping spirits and flagging energies? Letters from home. Not complaining, whining, faint-finding, discouraging letters; but brave, cheerful, encouraging letters, full of love and hope and noble sentiments; scraps of village news; a word about the old house dog, bossy, pussy, the baby's new tooth; with streaks of sunshine enough to dry up all the dews and damps of home-sickness, and make them thank God for such a home and country to live and to die for.

What an army of letters is marching every week to our lines. More than commissary wagons or Christian commissions, do they bring the oil and wine which makes glad the heart of the soldier; and more than rebel in the rear or engulfing mud, may they not waken our ranks and put back the onward march of freedom and of right.

Let us then who cannot fight *write*, and help on the good cause by sending to the field cheerful, courageous, patriotic letters.

Letter Addresses.

Postmaster, I a favor ask,
Should it not prove too great a task,
To find a man—be in your city—
With many whisker, (what a pity!)
Who, thinking he want to read, "6 cents dead."
Married a daughter of Mr. Pease;
He is a turner by profession,—
At least I'm under that impression,—
He is not rich, but very poor,
Would like to have some hundreds more.
To aid your task, I'll make it plain,
John E. McCarty is his name.

Laporte, Ind.

[From a soldier who could not raise a postage stamp nor officer's certificate:]

TO MISS MARY C. FOSTER,
Nancy, Livingston Co., N. Y.

How Uncle Sam should expect me to pay
The postage on letters, I surely can't say. [true,
That my dear friends at home must hear from me's
But I don't believe they want to read, "6 cents dead."
Hasn't Uncle got money? Yet I haven't got my pay
For so long that it counts up one hundred to day.
I have fought very bravely, and fought upon trust,
And now the old gentleman says, "Advance postage
you must."

To Tom Leighton, of Lincoln, this letter I send,
In hopes to see Lincoln his aid will lend;
Illinois is his State, she sends holly men,
The rebs. they have whipped, and can do it again;
They know no retreat—their know no defeat,
And Jeff. Davis they've bound to make shake in his seat.

[The following address appeared on a letter supposed to be for Mr. Weir, a lawyer in Illinois:]
The first ENGLISH not known Mr. Weayer Belleville Ill. A Attorney At Law.

Uncle Sam, take this letter as quick as you can
(I am sorry to bother you in such a hurry)
To Lisie P. Anderson—that's a good man,
But let me entreat you, don't get in a flurry;
In box two thousand, five hundred and thirty-one,
To New York, in New York, and your mission is done.

Nathaniel Merrill, a man who thrives
By other people's loss of lives;
For when they die, above their bones
He places "No. 1 Tomb-stones!"
And "Monuments," and "Slabs and Blox,"
And every sort of figured rox.
And "sculptured marble of every kind,
To suit the fancy of the most refined."
Wisconsin State, Milwaukee City,
If he don't get this, the more the pity!!

The Army is the lightest place
I ever did get into,
I cannot pay the freight on this,
Although I really want to;
I've "many red" but five months due—
Don't think it "on the level!"
Postmaster, you may send this through,
Or chuck it to the d—d!

P. M. of Bangor, have you seen
A needy cuss named Jotham Green?
As 'pose you know him, but maybe not,
Some of his "marks" I hers will jot;
Although he's Green, he's often "blue,"
(At least I'm told so—it mayn't be true.)
And the better to put you on his track,
I'll mention that he's "smally black."
I can't describe him further or better,
So hunt him up and give him this letter.

To Patrick Larkin who moved to his brothers at
Adamsville in haste to the care of Bernard Larkin
State of Penlya.

To Albert Walker, an awful talker,
Who lives in Salina—you won't find a meaner
If you travel all day through the State of I-O-A.

My fair is paid in postelrate,
To Kingston Township, New York State,
To Frederick Johnston, from a friend in Troy,
'Tis how are you, my conscript boy?

One or two very mortifying errors occurred last month in our directions respecting the frank of members of Congress, by the stupidity of a compositor who attempted to alter a sentence after the paragraph had been placed in the form. It should have read thus: "A letter sent to a Congressman requires nothing but his address, and the initials M.C., (or U.S.S., if to a Senator), added to the name."

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1863.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1863.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, such alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every paper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster-General:

Ordered That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the "several papers" as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—Several inquiries and other communications, are necessarily delayed until next month.

When we omit such contributions altogether, we trust our friends will take no offence, but try again.

Correspondents will oblige us by sending in their communications as early in the month as possible, say within the first two weeks. It will be much more apt to secure the insertion of their favors. Besides, reliable answers to many inquiries on official subjects, require time, and often a reference to head quarters.

Official.

APPOINTMENT OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, OCT. 15th, 1863.

The order of the Post Master General, inhibiting the mailing of newspapers on periodicals to regular subscribers, by News-Dealers, upon the same terms that such matter can be sent from an office of publication, has been temporarily suspended.

Therefore, for the present, such News-Dealers may mail Newspapers and Periodicals to regular subscribers, in the same manner that such matter was mailed by them prior to the first of July, 1863.

I am Respectfully Your Obedt. Servt.
ALEX. W. RANDALL,
1st Assistant P. M. Gen.

J. HOLBROOK, Esq.,
Special Agent &c., New York City.

Some business men claim the right to send printed circulars and price currents in two cent stamped envelopes, by private express, over routes where the United States Mail is regularly carried.

The annexed copy of a letter from the Department is in answer to one of inquiry written by the postmaster of Racine, Wis.

APPOINTMENT OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 17th, 1863.

SIR—In answer to your inquiry, I have to inform you, that there is no law authorizing the transmission of printed matter out of the mail in two cent stamped envelopes.

Respectfully Your Obedt. Servt.
ST. JOSEPH B. L. SHERMAN,
Acting First Assistant P. M. Gen.

An Important Order Neglected.

Notwithstanding the oft-repeated injunctions of the Department, expressed as well in special orders as in all official regulations published for years past, in regard to the importance of the proper cancellation of stamps at mailing offices, this duty is still shamefully neglected. The Acting First Assistant Postmaster General has, in a recent letter to a prominent postmaster, again alluded to this subject, and not only gave a strict attention to the effectual defacement of stamps, but also reminds all postmasters at offices of delivery of the fact that they are bound to report to each office to the Appointment Office all postmasters at mailing offices who are delinquent in this respect. He further reminds all postmasters that "an omission to cancel the postage stamps effectually will be regarded as serious cause for censure, if not of removal."

CAUTION TO POSTMASTERS—Several recent post office robberies have led us to believe that the same gang of thieves who a year ago looted contributions along the line of the New York and Erie Railroad, are again on their travels.

Postmasters cannot be too careful in making their offices secure beyond peradventure. It is not sufficient that a clerk sleep there. A burglar who is skillful enough to break in, is adroit enough to get all the "points" beforehand, and will avail himself of the opportunity to do business during the absence of such clerk,—for young men do not generally "go to bed with the sun, to rise with the lark." Therefore, look to your doors and windows.

NOT BE NEGLECTED.—The Postmaster General again calls the attention of postmasters and others having occasion to execute official bonds to the Department, to the legal necessity of placing upon each such instrument a Revenue Stamp of the denomination of fifty cents, and upon the certificate of each oath a ten cent Revenue Stamp.

Letters to go Beyond the Lines.

By request, we re-publish the requirements established by the military authorities, in reference to letters to go into rebel States:

RULES FOR LETTERS GOING SOUTH.—In order to secure the transmission of letters across the lines, the following rules, established by order of Gen. Dix, must be complied with:—

1. No letter must exceed one page of a letter sheet, or relate to other than purely domestic matters.

2. Every letter must be signed by the writer's name in full.

3. All letters must be sent with five cent postage enclosed to go to Richmond, Va., and ten cents if beyond. Coin must be sent.

4. All letters must be enclosed to the commanding General of the Department of Virginia at Fortress Monroe. No letter sent to any other address will be forwarded.

All letters sent to Fortress Monroe without a strict compliance with these rules, except for prisoners of war, will be transmitted to the dead letter office.

In reply to some inquiries as to the above rules General Dix orders as follows:—"The rules adopted in relation to the transmission of letters across the lines, are not to be considered as authorizing correspondence, and it is not to be inferred that all letters complying with these rules will be forwarded. It is entirely discretionary with the Commanding General here (Fortress Monroe), and there may be times and circumstances which will render all correspondence inexpedient, except with prisoners of war. The published memoranda are only intended to give notice that no letters of any description would be forwarded unless certain rules were complied with. All such letters should be let unsealed, of course, or the authorities will not assuredly open them (under the war power) before transmitting them to rebeldom."

Post Office Robberies.

A series of daring post office robberies have recently been committed in Massachusetts and Maine. Some weeks since the post office at Northampton, Mass., was entered and robbed, the bags containing the outgoing mails were also cut open and their contents stolen.

About the same time the office at Gloucester, Mass., was entered and all the letters carried away. Most of them were subsequently found in a yard about one mile distant, broken open and the contents abstracted.

About the 15th of September the office at Salem, Mass., was entered and a large number of letters stolen, and carried to an old coach near by, where they were hid and left in a mutilated condition.

On the night of the 5th September an attempt was made to rob the office at Bath, Maine. The clerk was, however, prepared for visitors, and as the robber was attempting to enter through a window, the clerk fired upon him. This brought the intruder to the ground, when the clerk gave him three or four more shots through the window. Owing to the darkness of the night the robber escaped, although probably wounded, as blood was found near the spot, and footprints could be traced to the wharf, which indicates that the wounded robber was carried off by his accomplices in a boat.

Although a large number of letters have been broken open and destroyed, thereby causing delay and suffering to parties interested, the known amount which they have thus far realized is quite small.

We find the annexed complimentary notice of the present management of the Mail Service, in a late number of the Boston Weekly Gazette:—

POSTMASTER GENERAL BLAIR.—At a time when war and finance are the all-absorbing themes, nationally speaking, but little attention is paid to the most quiet of our government departments, but none the less important—the Post Office. Of the management of this Department too much cannot be said in its praise. When every thing is confused, with crowded railroads and the interruption of conveyance threatened by the exigencies of other public service, everything proceeds in the Post Office Department with almost the regularity of clock-work. Scarcely a mail fails in its destination, and men had nothing to do but to think of duty connected with transportation, exclusively. We think Postmaster General Blair entitled to the warmest praise for this state of things that certainly redounds greatly to his credit. No man has ever filled his position who has received more unanimity of approval, and not a complaint is heard of his management. We make these remarks simply because it has surprised us that our own papers to the farthest points reach with such regularity and promptness, and letters from all parts of the country come to us strictly on time.

Business of the New York Office.

We give below a statement of the business transacted at the New York office during the year ending Sept. 30, 1863, showing a very large increase over the figures of last year:—

1862.	1863.	Increase.	
Mails sent.....	14,738,240	16,678,146	1,939,906
California sent.....	340,519	385,739	45,220
Foreign letters sent.....	2,899,579	2,717,522	182,057
Total letters sent.....	17,978,338	19,781,407	1,803,069
Mails received for distribution.....	18,205,465	19,848,202	1,642,737
Mails received for delivery.....	12,966,650	14,220,330	1,253,680
California received, & distributed.....	253,749	264,093	10,344
Foreign letters received.....	2,229,515	2,360,756	131,241
Total letters rec'd.....	33,646,389	37,543,700	3,897,311
Registered letters sent and rec'd.....	109,407	130,940	21,533
Total increase.....			6,233,183
Stamps and envelopes sold.....	\$1,104,598.02	\$948,153.78	\$156,444.24

The apparent decrease in the sales of stamps and envelopes is accounted for by the fact that during a portion of 1863, about \$100,000 worth of stamps were sold to be used as currency. Deducting this amount, the actual increase is \$43,545.06 in the receipts for sales of stamps and envelopes for postal purposes.

Hon. A. N. ZAVELY, Third Assistant Postmaster General, has, we learn, arrived at Salt Lake City, via the Overland Route. We are glad to hear that letters received from him state that the trip has had a highly beneficial effect upon his health.

Postmasters' Correspondents.

Most of our readers, no doubt, labor under the impression that the duties of a postmaster are confined to superintending the details of his office.—In attending to the receipt, forwarding, and delivery of the mails, the accurate keeping of his official records, and the safe custody of the correspondence committed to his charge; but there is a class of persons who evidently imagine that postmasters—especially those of our large cities—are "public servants" in the widest acceptation of the term—that they are appointed to act as agents to transact the private business of any citizen who may have need of their services, without compensation and at the shortest notice. A few samples of the letters that are daily received addressed to "Mr. Postmaster," of New York, will show the absurdity of this fellow-citizens' notion of the nature of the official duties of that gentleman. One individual writes:

"Sir—I noticed in a newspaper an advertisement of a new washing machine which I think would suit me, if it is as good as represented. Please go to No. — Broadway and examine it, and give me your opinion of it, and if you think it will do you may send me one, and I will send you the money."

This is quite a modest request as compared with some others: As, for instance:

"Mr. Postmaster—Some time ago I had a sister who used to live in Boston. Her name was Mary Jane Henderson, and she went to live in New York, and married a man a cooper by trade. Some years afterwards I was told she moved to Illinois, and that her husband was dead. Now I want you to see if you cannot find her, as I am very anxious to see her. If you find her, tell her that her brother would like to hear from her, and direct her letter to me at No. — in — County, State of New Jersey, and any trouble and expense I will pay for, and oblige."

Your friend,
NOAH CHERRY"

Perhaps the most singular of all the strange commissions that postmasters are called on to perform was contained in a letter from a German in Indiana, who actually, and evidently in perfect good faith, requested a postmaster to oblige him by forwarding him a wife! After setting forth his age and pecuniary circumstances (which latter he represented as being very comfortable), he stated that the only qualification he expected the wished for bride to possess were that she should be "a shanty woman" (whatever that may be), and "know how to work." (Whether by this latter accomplishment "walking" or "working" was referred to, the peculiar orthography of the honest Teuton left in some doubt.) Not receiving an immediate reply to his demand, the impatient swain wrote a second time to inquire the cause of the delay in the arrival of his "shanty" mate! We can only hope that the disappointed "lover" has since this consoled himself by selecting a frau from his own neighborhood, in lieu of the imported article which he vainly coveted.

Some persons desirous of traveling, and having the fear of ticket-swindlers before their eyes, write a request to the postmaster to secure them a passage on a California or European steamer. Others wish to be informed as to the best mode of disposing of some article which they have to sell, or to inquire the whereabouts of a runaway husband or wife, &c. In fact there is hardly a question on any subject which a postmaster is not called on in this way to answer, or a service he is not expected to perform, by these correspondents. It may be some consolation for those of them who suffer from disappointment at neither receiving replies nor having their little jobs attended to, to know that their letters are all duly filed—in the waste basket.

AN IMPORTANT SUGGESTION.—We almost daily receive from some one or more of our subscribers a complimentary acknowledgment of the assistance they derive in their official duties from the perusal of our paper, and many of these letters conclude with the remark—"I think it the duty of every postmaster to subscribe to the MAIL." To this flattering expression of opinion we have, of course, nothing to say in the way of dissent—but beg leave respectfully to offer, by way of a slight amendment to the motion, the suggestion that the duty of reading the MAIL, after subscribing for it, is of no less importance. We are induced to make this suggestion by the fact that we have received from several of our subscribers inquiries in regard to the details of official duties—especially those affected by the passage of the new postal law—which have already been explicitly answered in these columns. In some cases, full information in respect to the points upon which information is sought has formed a regular portion of the "standing matter" of our paper for months past—for instance, the amount of the registration fee to be charged on letters to Canada and some other places (5 cents) remains unchanged by the new law, and the fact will be found stated in the last column of our fourth page, under the head, "Registration of Letters." And yet we saw a letter the other day, from one of our subscribers to a large post office, asking why another postmaster had corrected, on a return registry bill, his charge of twenty cents fee on a letter to Montreal! While we do not intend by any means to deny the advantages which so many of our readers assure us are certain to follow a subscription to our paper, we must be permitted to remark that taking it, without reading it, is an aggravated case of "faith without works."

We are obliged to call attention again to the order of the Department requiring a record to be kept at all distributing and separating offices, of the registered numbers and destination of all packages of stamps and stamped envelopes which pass through those offices. We are led to believe, from circumstances which have recently come under our observation, that the neglect of this important order is altogether too prevalent, and hope soon to see an improvement in the matter.

Transient Papers, &c.

EDITOR OF THE MAIL.—Doubtless, every one who has had occasion to note the working of the new postal law, is satisfied that it is completely destructive of all the dodges usually resorted to to defeat the working of the prepaying system, and has the common-sense virtue of applying the remedy directly to that trait in human character, self-interest, which will always govern the practical working of any great measure of reform dependent entirely upon the public for support. There is no trouble in getting the public to adopt and assist in working a new machine if it is made their interest to do so. You probe the conscience of the reading and writing public through the pocket, and they will have a clear perception of the requirements of a law that might otherwise lie unheeded at the obtuse angle of their mental casemats for years.

Everybody knows the postage on a drop letter or transient paper is two cents, prepaid, and the reason they have learned it so soon is, because the small penalty of two cents additional is otherwise collected of the person addressed. They have also learned that they cannot burden the mails with large packages, partially paid, and divide the postage as they choose, between themselves and their correspondents. There is not as much heavy correspondence under a three-cent stamp, deposited in post offices "on the sly," as formerly: for the very good reason that it will not pay. These wholesome features of the new law are their own schoolmaster, and no official watchings for violations of them are required.

As to that most important feature, the collection of quarterly postage in advance, the machine is no longer self-regulating, and the responsibility of its success or failure, here rests entirely upon the postmaster. He may also take the entire responsibility of the failure of all efforts thus far to prevent the enormous amount of contraband correspondence that circulates upon the margins, or is otherwise hidden in the folds of the transient newspaper. The new law, if properly lived up to, adequately disposes of this entire contraband traffic, but the reforms it meditates, if they exist at all, live only in the imagination of some postmaster who has not yet had time to begin. The law says that every transient paper must be examined at the office of delivery, and if so wrapped that its contents cannot be seen without destroying the wrapper, it must be rated with letter postage. I judge from the multitude of transient papers, the contents of which are inaccessible except by destroying the wrapper, that there is still a great deal of oblivion somewhere upon this subject. It looks hard, 'tis true, to charge letter postage on a paper whose only offence would seem to be, too great security; so you take it up, try to get it out of its hide without tearing it; failing in the attempt, you say—"well, I guess that's all right!"—so it passes into the hands of Sarah Jane, in all its primitive entire "gay and festive loveliness," with its darling marginal treasure rendered doubly dear and interesting from having escaped the hazards of a blockade that is for the most part imaginary.

Every postmaster knows that the disposition to evade "Uncle Sam" out of a cent or two under cover of transient papers, prevails to an alarming extent. Perhaps this extensive abuse of the mail service can only be partially prevented at best. After an experience, more or less, of more than twenty years, I am of the opinion, and had I been consulted upon this point, I should have held as my base of operations upon this question that all transient papers are guilty. The framers of the law have practically proceeded upon the same supposition, and demand of postmasters that they shall apply the only remedy, a strict and absolute surveillance.

It is my experience at least, that this kind of contraband intelligence has been increased rather than diminished by the new rate. Every transient paper should be as plainly postmarked as if it were a letter, then, if subject to letter postage, and refused by the person addressed, as they generally are, they could be returned to the mailing office and the postage collected of the sender. Is not the law against writing or concealing anything in a newspaper rendered in good part inoperative from the common neglect of this most important safeguard? Upon one hundred transient papers in your office, and perhaps fifty of them will have "All Well," "Write soon," "Yours truly," and "Love to all," one or the other of them all snugly and nicely tucked away in one corner. An accidentally folded margin is generally supposed to be a secure place for cheap transportation. Perhaps you chance to unearth this postal dead-head and rattle him with letter postage as the law requires, and it is refused; you cannot compel the payment, or return it to the mailing office from the postmaster, so you either deliver it, or throw it among the waste papers of your office.

I will not undertake to introduce here any reflections of the pious horror with which I should contemplate the necessity of a critical examination of the thousands of transient papers I have seen piled on the floors of post offices, but I think if they were mine to examine I should be inclined to suggest to the mailing postmasters whether it would not be quite as well to rate them, as they do other matter, with the proper postage before throwing them in the mail bag.

For the U. S. Mail.

EDITOR MAIL.—Sir:—The new postal laws are very plain, and the instructions annexed render them plainer; still there are certain points in the law, or in the interpretation thereof, wherein postmasters may err andly. One section especially, section 24, seems to require further explanation than is to be found in the "Instructions." The last clause of said law provides that publishers of newspapers may print or write upon their publications sent to regular subscribers, the address of subscribers and the date when the subscription expires, and may

enclose therewith receipts for payment and bill for subscription thereto. The question arises here, (as lawyers and doctors agree in saying, that papers with subscribers names thereon may be re-mailed, can such papers be re-mailed, still bearing the names described, without being subject to letter postage? Or does marking across or tearing off such names in part make an erasure? Will making a mark with pen or pencil for the purpose of attracting the eye to a particular paragraph be longer tolerated? And how about wrappers? Editors have a feeling, when putting up papers (being proverbially poor they are inclined to economize) they make anything do for wrappers, scraps of editorial, legal documents, old letters, &c. The question is, again, are newspapers covered with such non-descript papers subject to letter postage? These are more quibbles, but trials light as air have an important bearing in postal matters. I do not wish to err, yet I am continually stumbling over some one of these technicalities.

ANSWER.—We do not, in this case, speak "by authority," but venture to remark that the object and intent of the law being to prevent the conveyance of information by writing or marking, a portion of an old editorial item on a wrapper, or a meaningless address on a newspaper margin, does not strictly come within the contraband rule. Still, the custom of using such material for wrappers, or of not removing names which have already served their original purpose, should be discontinued in all proper ways.—[EO. MAIL.]

[COMMUNICATED]

CHICAGO, Sept. 4, 1863.

Under the postal law of March 8, 1863, which went into operation on the 1st July last, it is a common practice among post offices, and especially the larger ones, to forward matter described as third class, or miscellaneous matter, without full prepayment, charging up the unpaid residue at double the established rates; if wholly unpaid, such matter is, nevertheless, forwarded under these conditions. This, doubtless, obtains from a misunderstanding of the law and instructions based thereon. I must confess, however, that the instructions are not entirely clear in several important connections. Please refer to the following named sections of the new law, viz.—Section 17, (read the first clause of this section critically, and then Section 27, and close with section 26.) After a perusal of these sections, with the corresponding printed instructions to postmasters, in the order in which I have named them, it is not clear that the practice referred to is a violation of those provisions of the law? Undoubtedly so. Mailable matter described in section 27 of the law as third class, never enters, in the common practice of the service, into the way bill, and when sent forward with charges upon it to be collected on delivery, no record is made of these charges, as a matter of course, against the receiving office. The post bill is simply an invoice and nothing more, and, unless all mailable matter enters into these interchangeable invoices, it is manifestly a wise provision to require full prepayment on that which does not. This seems to be provided for in the law itself, for section 17 defines what must be prepaid before being entitled to transmission in the mail; and the printed regulation based on this section is equally clear and distinct in its specifications; thus one clearly defining the provisions of the law.

The exceptions laid down in the general rule in section 17, are to be found described unmistakably in sections 18, 27, 35, 36 and 42. The misapprehension concerning which I write, hinges, no doubt, on section 25; this section, with the corresponding printed instructions, is not at all clear enough in its meaning at first reading, and it doubtless has occasioned the practice. The section cannot be the occasion of its framers to instruct a violation of every other provision of the law. That cannot be, because that would argue an imperfection in the law, which is not presumed to exist. Sections 17, 18, 27, 35, 36 and 42, are harmonious in their design; section 26 must be supposed in harmony with them. This view will enable us to find what is the intent of the law, in my opinion it is designed to provide for the collection of the unpaid residue of postage insufficiently prepaid on matter "on which by law the postage is required to be prepaid at the mailing office," which, through oversight or otherwise, of delivery without such prepayment. This is the only construction which can be placed on the section to be at all keeping in with other sections of the law. And if this is its design, it is eminently correct upon the theory that no valid reasons exist, because of insufficient prepayment, or no payment at all, in the first instance, for a refusal to deliver such matter, having reached its place of destination through the mail, if the postage were by law tendered to the postmaster at the office of delivery.

I think that you will agree with me that the practice spoken of, now so largely indulged in, but hitherto so sedulously guarded against by neglected prohibitions, is wrong in more ways than one.

All replies to questions touching the construction of law, should undergo the most critical examination before receiving a regular signature, and so in regard to the regulations of the Department—they should be so explicit as to leave no room for misapprehension.

G. B. A.

For the U. S. Mail.

SHARP PRACTICE.—A case of sharp practice came to our knowledge recently, which for cunning design and sheer impudence, we have rarely seen equaled. It is only one of the many ways scoundrels make use of to swindle unsuspecting men, and at the same time surround others in the suspicion of crime. In this case, however, the matter did not go far, for the sagacity of Judge D. V. ENL, Special Agent of the P. O. Department, at Chicago, cleared the post office itself of suspicion of wrong by exposing the attempted villainy. It appears that a merchant in Chicago largely advertised in the country papers, and among other letters received one day was one written by, we'll say, John Thompson, dated in an interior town in an adjoining State, asking for certain goods the enterprising Thompson named, should be sent him by the first train, and that he would be pleased to be a profitable customer after a while, &c. This was all very nice for the merchant to contemplate—the swelling of his list of profitable customers. Thompson concluded by stating that he enclosed \$20.00, but, lo! no bill was there! In its place was the fragment of a bill, disclosing the letters "W." There was a sale lost unless the merchant should send the goods, and trust to the integrity of his correspondent to pay—responsibility Thompson's intention was all right! But the merchant thought that it would be proper before shipping the goods "by the first train," to

UNITED STATES MAIL.

consult the Postmaster with a view of detecting the perpetrator of the robbery. A brief but careful inspection of the papers disclosed no violence done to them. This suspicious circumstance was further strengthened by the fact that there was no evidence of adhesion sufficiently great to forcibly tear out a piece from a bank bill right in its centre, and that that suspicious little piece of paper should just reveal enough letters of the alphabet to suggest that the bill was a twenty, and verify the sagacious Thompson's declaration that a bill of that denomination was really placed in the letter. But men's best laid plans "aft gang aglee." The piece might have belonged to a "two" as well as a "twenty." The merchant was told to wait the investigation, and not to be too quick in believing that there was no dishonesty outside of a post office. The unsuspecting Thompson was only informed of the facts of his "twenty" was asked to furnish a description of the bill for the purpose of detecting the rogue, &c.; and sure enough, along came by return mail the minute description desired. The special agent at once transmitted the description, with the piece found in Thompson's letter, to the President of the Bank named therein, and in due time the *expose* came. "The Bank issued no twos, and the letters did not correspond with those composing the word twenty on the bill of that denomination issued by it, but were widely different in shape and size." The pertinacity of the euphonious Thompson over-reached itself. The merchant's eyes were opened, he lost his promised profitable customer and closed the interview with Toolless' famous ejaculation in the door: "ate scene."

A postmaster asks us if the Department allows no variation or option in the direction to add a charge of double the amount of deficient postage upon a letter dropped in a post office to be mailed, which is slightly over weight. He thinks "it seems unjust, inasmuch as it is not to be supposed that a citizen can always ascertain the exact weight of a letter. The apparent postage being paid, is not that *prima facie* evidence of the intention of the sender to pay the correct postage?"

We answer that the law and instructions on this point are quite clear and arbitrary. The remedy for the citizen, in case of close or doubtful weight, is quite simple generally. Let him, in such cases, ask the postmaster to throw the letter on the scales, and thus settle the matter on the spot.

AN EXPRESSIVE LESSON.—A business acquaintance of ours in New England, recently told us a brief history of a post office transaction of his, involving a pretty serious expense as the result of his own carelessness.

He posted a letter containing drafts, checks, &c., to a large amount, and addressed to a well-known New York house. Its failure to arrive at the proper destination of course created great anxiety, and all the ordinary and some extraordinary means were employed to head off any attempt by "the mail robbers," to negotiate the "stolen" remittances. Journeys were made to and fro, between the mailing point and the Empire city, the newspapers were liberally patronized with notices of "stolen from the mail," circulars descriptive of the lost enclosure abounded, all at an aggregate expense, according to confession, of over \$100.

During this short season of precaution and excitement, the letter in question had been making the official acquaintance of the worthy postmaster of New Haven, Ct., and that of his clerks—then, under the rule, skipping off to shake hands with our friends of the Dead Letter Office, and from thence finding its way back to the writer, who says he "never before did such a stupid thing as to write New Haven, Ct., instead of New York, N. Y."

Chicago Post Office.

Statement of the business of the Chicago Post Office during the quarter ending September 30th, 1863.

Stamps and Stamp Envelopes sold, \$50,019.92. Postage prepaid by Stamps on letters, &c., sent, \$43,205.33. Postage on letters received for distribution, \$138,172.12. Total postage on letters sent to other offices, \$181,377.49. Number of letters sent to all other offices during quarter, about 25,000,000.

About 1,000 bundles of mails are sent out daily, the larger part being paper mails. There are 48 arrivals and departures of mails from and to all parts by rail roads diverging from Chicago. The amount of mail bags received at the depot for transfer to the several trains according to destination of the bags is very great. Their office has over 5,000 boxes and 700 drawers rented, and not one box vacant. 95 clerks are employed, and all hard crowded at that. Altogether the contrast between the business of this office now and what it was ten years ago, is remarkable, showing the great strides the West has made in population, enterprise and power.

The above statistics were furnished us by our friend G. B. Armstrong, Esq., the Asst. P. M. at Chicago.

Mr. EDWORTH.—Now that the carriers' fee of one cent on letters is abolished, is it right to have your letters left on the door-step? Had such a thing happened but once I would not have troubled you with this note; but where it has occurred one, two, three, or more times, I think it is high time to have a stop put to it. Boys are very apt to take circulars from door-steps, and would not scruple to take a letter, especially if there might be a chance of that letter containing money! By giving the above your earliest attention, I think you will do much to allay a common grievance.

Yours, respectfully, ONE OF MANY.

The above comes to us from Boston, and we infer that the complaint relates to some one of the letter carriers in that city. If it does, and is a just one, we are satisfied that it has no application to the carrier system there generally, for in no city in the Union have the public been better served for years past, and now, than in Boston. If "One of Many" would all on postmaster PATRICK and state his case, this or any other carrier found thus delinquent would very soon lose his connection with the post office.—[ED. MAIL.]

The first number of "Appleton's Postal Guide," to be published quarterly, made its appearance during the early part of last month. It is intended to instruct the public generally, as to their duties in connection with post office business, by applying information necessary to that end.

Second Assistant Postmaster General G. W. McCLELLAN has now, we are happy to learn, almost entirely recovered from his late illness.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices during the month of October:

POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	ROUTE.
Araby	Frederick	Md.	3,264
Briggoport	Jackson	Mo.	10,974
Brown's Valley	Montgomery	Lud.	Sup. from Waverland
Buffalo Fork	Kusuth	Iowa	13,532
Chaesberg	Vernon	Wis.	Sup. from La Crosse
Green Lawn	Rolls	Mo.	4,109
Green Station Moon	W. Va.		
Harker's Corn's	Peoria	Ill.	Sup. from Peoria
Lyra	Scioto	Ohio	Sup. from Scioto Furnace
Markleville	Amador	Cal.	Sup. from Oary's Mills, Nev. Tor.
Moore's	Tyler	W. Va.	4,187
Orlean	Polk	Mo.	10,601
Phelps	Allen	Mo.	10,601
Pleasant Valley	Monongalia	W. Va.	4,154
Pursley	Tyler	W. Va.	4,107
Rio Grande	Gallia	Ohio	9,234
Slate Creek	Utah	Idaho Ter.	15,375

* Re-established.

DISCONTINUED.
(In the annexed List will be found added, the names of the nearest offices to which matter for those having been discontinued, should be sent.)

NAME.	COUNTY.	STATE.	NEAREST OFFICE.
Agricultural College	Primo	Geo.	Md. Hyattsville
Adairville	Johnson	Kans.	Westport, Mo.
Ayersville	Lozano	Ky.	N. Y. Coventryville
Blue Rock	Rowan	N. Y.	Morehead
Beach Grove	Meigs	Ohio	Valley Ford
Blairstown	Mich.	Belle Plaine	St. Clair
Blair	Potawatimic	Pa.	Westport
Cook's Run	Clinton	Ky.	Whiteburg
Cornett's Mills	Letcher	Ky.	Scottsville
Cedar Springs	Allen	Mich.	Belle Plaine
Clintonville	St. Clair	Mich.	Belle Plaine
Chapel Hill	La Fayette	Mo.	Lexington
Chalk Level	Hopkins	Ky.	Charleston
Cheslerfield	Pulson	Ohio	Lyons
Chippewa Lake	Douglas	Mich.	Excelsior
Chandlerson	Carver	Minn.	Sault Falls
Crooked Creek	Jefferson	Mo.	Vienna
Clifty Dale	Maries	Col.	Clear Water
Collax	Graves	Ky.	Mayfield
Dublin	Scottland	Owen	Owentown
Dalhousburgh	Rowan	N. Y.	Memphis
Edna Mills	Clinton	Ind.	Rossville
Edinboro	Edinboro	Pa.	Frankfort
Eight Mile Corn'r	San Joaquin	Cal.	Stockton
Fort Buchanan	Dona Ana	N. Mex.	Santa Fe
Defiance	Bernallio	Cal.	Bernallio
Stanton	Dona Ana	N. Mex.	Stanton
Flourace Station	Jefferson	Mo.	Excelsior
Featherstone	Goodhue	N. Y.	Wing
Gary Owen	Jackson	Iowa	Wing
Georgetown	Lewis	W. Va.	Plemington
Honeyville	Logan	Ky.	Russellville
Hungry Creek	Allen	Mich.	Excelsior
Hinton	Meckota	Mich.	Excelsior
Inland	Rock Island	Ill.	Buff. Prairie
Ironville	Greenwood	Kans.	Jacksonville
Jackson	Jefferson	Mo.	Excelsior
Joyceville	Litchfield	Pa.	Westport
Keating	Clinton	Pa.	Westport
Leesborough	Montgomery	Mich.	Excelsior
Louisville	Pike	Ky.	Pikeston
Madison	Polk	Mo.	Excelsior
Lesley	Benton	Mo.	Excelsior
Lauderville	Lancaster	Pa.	Lancaster
Liberty	Knosha	Wis.	Salem Station
W. Wainington	Franklin	Pa.	Penn
Milerton	Franklin	Pa.	Horatitz
Maylarville	De Suer	Minn.	Le Sueur
Midview	Henry	Ky.	New Castle
Placence Station	Jefferson	Ky.	Hopkinsville
Mt. Vernon	Jefferson	Mo.	Excelsior
Nine Points	Lancaster	Pa.	Bartville
North Brighton	Livingston	Iowa	Excelsior
Ola	Tama	Iowa	Excelsior
Rock Island	Rock Island	Iowa	Excelsior
St. Joseph	St. Joseph	Mo.	Excelsior
Walden	Walden	Mass.	Charlemont
Zoar	Franklin	Mass.	Charlemont

NAMES CHANGED.

Grassborough Falls, Jefferson, Kans., to Bantrel Falls. Knox Gomers, Oneida, N. Y., to Knoxboro.

Presidential Appointments.

Georgetown, El Dorado, Cal., Esra I. Smith.

Office Re-opened in Succeeded States.

Temporanceville, Accomack, Va.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Ellenburgh, Clinton, N. Y., Mrs. Eliza Kazen. Fayette, Howard, Mo., Mrs. Madeline A. Mallory. Gatchellville, York, Pa., Mrs. Jane Gatchell. Goshen, Oldham, Ky., Mrs. M. E. Babak. Leesburgh, Cumberland, N. J., Mrs. Elizabeth Ward. McLean's Mills, Valdo, Me., Mrs. Eliza Sumner. Munson, Henry, Ill., Miss Sarah Blaken. Potersville, Frederick, Md., Mrs. Enclie Matany. Ralston, Lyncoln, Pa., Miss J. Conley. Rusbyville, Schuyler, Ill., Mrs. Sweeney. Socha Centre, Wayne, N. Y., Miss Lovina Sturgis.

Per the U. S. Mail.

VICKSBURG POST OFFICE.—Seeing in your paper a notice of this office, I deem it but just that there should be a little further notice made of it. The office is now under the care of Special Agent A. H. Markham, whose retiring zeal has made it an "splendid working order." He is a man of energy and in all respects a credit to his Department.

The military letter division is in the hands of Charles Delph, who cannot be too highly recommended. He has been acting as military postmaster in General Grant's army in various places, so long that he knows where every regiment and nearly every soldier belong. Such a memory is not often to be met with.

For an office that has been so lately established, and having so much to do, this cannot find a superior.

The franking privilege of members of Congress does not include printed matter sent by them, unless it be Congressional documents, speeches, &c. Correspondence both to and from them, is limited to four ounces.

It will be observed that in the republished rules, in another column, for forwarding letters South, a new one has been added, requiring that coin must be enclosed to pay the postage beyond our lines.

The attention of postmasters is directed to the order issued by the Department, Oct. 15, by which news dealers are allowed the privilege of sending papers and periodicals to regular subscribers at the same prepaid rates as publishers are allowed to do. It will be observed that the former order, excluding them from so doing, is temporarily suspended.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid,) excepting those written by officers of the government, addressed to the department with which they are connected, and on official business, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, prepayment in money being prohibited.

All drop letters must be prepaid, at the rate of two cents per half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, by postage stamps.

The single rate of postage on all domestic mail letters throughout the United States is three cents per half ounce, with an additional rate of three cents for each additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce. The former ten cent (Pacific) rate is abolished.

Rates of letter postage between offices in the United States, and to and from Canada and other British North American Provinces.

To and from British N. A. Provinces, for distance not over 3,000 miles, 10 cts. For any distance over 3,000 miles, 15 "

For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing what ever.

Manuscripts, when sent in the mail, are to be charged with letter postage by weight.

Postmasters are authorized to pay for each letter addressed to the United States by any sea-going vessel from a foreign port, (in carrying the mail two cents, and for each letter addressed to the United States brought by any vessel, on inland waters, (not carrying the mail,) or brought coastwise from one domestic port to another, one cent; but to entitle the carrier to such payment the letter must be promptly delivered to the post office upon arrival. At the post office where deposited, such letters will be charged with double rates of postage, to be collected at the office of delivery; that is to say, six cents for each ounce, and for each letter addressed to the United States brought by any vessel, on inland waters, (not carrying the mail,) or brought coastwise from one domestic port to another, one cent; but to entitle the carrier to such payment the letter must be promptly delivered to the post office upon arrival. 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UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. IV. No. 3.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1863.

WHOLE No. 39.

Negligent Correspondents.

In a recent number, we had something to say concerning remissness in answering letters, and our remarks were then confined principally to ordinary friendly correspondence, in which delay, although vexatious, was not of vital consequence. We would now call the attention of our readers to a form of negligence which is continually producing an amount of anxiety and heart-sickness which is sad to contemplate. We say this from our own observation. More than once have we heard an anxious, sorrow-worn woman inquire in trembling tones for a letter, her countenance betraying the excitement of suspense while the requisite examination of the files was made, and when the answer came that there was none, it was pitiable to see the dejection with which she slowly moved away, to wait, perhaps a day, perhaps for weeks, before there would again be a possibility of receiving the message so longed for. The absent one, it may be, is with the army, and all the chances of war—its exposures and hardships—the possibilities of sickness, of wounds, of death, are continually present to the loving hearts at home, and any delay in the missives which bring intelligence of his continued well-being, at once awakes fears, which increase as the ominous silence is prolonged. Too often this is the silence of death, but in many instances it is the result of a want of consideration, or a reluctance to handle the pen, or some other reason, which, in different circumstances, might be considered valid, but are insufficient to justify neglect, when a single line, hastily scrawled, might save days and even weeks of torturing suspense. But those whose anxieties are thus excited, are not those alone who have friends on the "tented field." Often, on the arrival of California mails, and especially in country post offices, we have observed scenes similar to the one above sketched, and the disappointment from not receiving an expected letter is the greater because of the long time which must elapse before another mail can arrive. While upon this subject, we would say a word to "the old folks at home," and to the young ones; for we apprehend that there is quite as much negligence in this direction as in the one we have been speaking of. The cheering and comforting and otherwise excellent moral effect upon our soldiers of frequent letters from home can hardly be overrated. Thence come much of the inspiration which sent them to the battle-field, and thence do they need to receive supplies of that potent stimulus which is derived from frequent communications from home and friends. Thus is home influence preserved, with its power to restrain from vice and lead in the ways of virtue.

We often hear the "demoralizing" of an army attributed to various causes, but we can conceive of no more powerful one than the cessation of home correspondence. We do not fear this catastrophe, but we think that the good which is now effected by means of letters may be increased many fold at the expense of but little effort in this labor of love.

Publisher U. S. Mail.

Sir.—Certain remarks relative to the security of army mail matter in the October number of the Mail, suggest to me that it may be of interest to report the experience of this office on that point.

The Knight (U. S.) Hospital for Soldiers, has been established in New Haven since May, 1862. One of the first movements of Major P. A. Jewett, the surgeon in charge, in providing for the convenience of nearly 450 soldiers constantly under his charge, was to procure a pouch under lock and key, reserving one of the duplicate keys for the hospital postmaster, the other one is deposited at this office. All mail matter has ever since been exchanged between post office and hospital under lock, and but one complaint (which upon examination proved without foundation,) has been made of a missing letter.

How far a similar course is practicable with army correspondence, I am unable to judge, but I see no reason why all hospital correspondence may not thus be protected against the depredations of unfaithful mail messengers.

Post Office Statistics.

The following statement, furnished at our request, will show the number of letters mailed and value of stamps sold at the New Haven post office during the last year and three-quarters:

Quarter ending	March 31, 1862,	169,189	\$6,588 99
" "	June 30, 1862, <td>168,885<td>6,430 10</td></td>	168,885 <td>6,430 10</td>	6,430 10
" "	Sept. 30, 1862, <td>189,517<td>18,795 74</td></td>	189,517 <td>18,795 74</td>	18,795 74
" "	Dec. 31, 1862, <td>205,048<td>6,296 16</td></td>	205,048 <td>6,296 16</td>	6,296 16
" "	March 31, 1863, <td>261,986<td>8,556 40</td></td>	261,986 <td>8,556 40</td>	8,556 40
" "	June 30, 1863, <td>198,142<td>8,313 33</td></td>	198,142 <td>8,313 33</td>	8,313 33
" "	Sept. 30, 1863, <td>216,338<td>9,709 07</td></td>	216,338 <td>9,709 07</td>	9,709 07

The increase of the quarter just past is rather noticeable when it is recollected that the term includes the dull business months of summer, as also the six weeks commencement vacation of college. We suspect that the steady growth of business above shown is alike an evidence of the steady increase in the business growth of our city, and of the appreciation in which the constant endeavors of our postmaster for the increase and extension of mail facilities is held by the public.—N. Haven Palladium.

Correspondence and the Rebellion.

Civil war has opened through the midst of the nation like an earthquake, rending asunder political, commercial, social, and friendly relations; and not the least lamentable of its effects are felt among families and kindred, and those who were united by the ties of friendship, in closing up the avenues of communication, and putting an end to that freedom of intercourse which was once enjoyed from one end of our country to the other. Many a family, whose members, at the breaking out of the war, were living, some at the North and some at the South, and maintained the interchange of affection by frequent correspondence, have found this pure source of enjoyment cut off. The ties of marriage or the demands of business had called one and another away from the old homestead, yet their "hearts, untraveled, fondly turned" to one another and to the remaining inhabitants of the home of their youth, and the family bond was ever renewed by the messages which passed between these separated members of a common household. But now a yawning gulf divides them; and it will be well if the conflicting interests and opposing ideas of the two parties to this great conflict do not produce coldness and alienation between those who once were as dear to one another as the ties of blood, or alliance, or friendship could make them.—The suspension of correspondence must inevitably tend to promote such a painful result.—Notwithstanding this, we have no doubt that there are thousands in both sections of our country who are cherishing in their hearts the memories of by-gone days, and are longing for the time to come when they may again indulge in the outpouring of affection toward the dear and absent ones. The sad necessities of war impose silence as yet on the yearnings of love, or at most they can be uttered only in a poor and constrained way, for public safety demands that even friendly correspondence shall be officially inspected before it can be allowed to pass beyond our lines, and the same precaution is taken on the other side. Wherever our armies gain a permanent foothold, Government re-establishes the suspended post office and mail communications, and the Post Office Department spares no pains to restore these prime necessities as rapidly as circumstances will allow. It will indeed be a day of jubilee when the currents of thought and feeling shall be allowed to flow once more in their wonted channels, and to cause the laud again to smile, and desolate hearts to rejoice.

For the U. S. Mail.

Mailing Letters with Route Agents.
A memorial addressed to the Post Office Committee of the House and Senate in circulation among the New England Route Agents, calling attention to the growing tendency to abuse the privilege of mailing letters at the cars, and suggesting the propriety of some legislative action to remedy the difficulty.

There has, no doubt, been a great abuse of this regulation. The case of the Southern pouch, formerly hung upon the mail crate at the Jersey City ferry, is in point on this matter—originally placed there for the purpose of receiving and forwarding such letters as could not, by due diligence, have been mailed at the New York post office—the facilities afforded by it were constantly more and more abused, until at times the whole Southern correspondence of some business firms, instead of their occasional reasonable letters, was deposited in it. The pouch became too small for its intended purpose, and was finally abandoned.

Similar in effect is the experience of most way Route Agents. They can count with certainty that, at particular stations, letters of familiar handwriting will daily be handed them or tucked into the strap of the exchange pouch for mailing. This is done for various reasons, sometimes the writers are located somewhat nearer to the railroad station than to the post office, and thereupon deliberately calculate to use the cars as their mailing office; and sometimes (such is human nature) this course is pursued to diminish the commissions of an obnoxious local postmaster. But whatever be the reason, the practice is a bad one at the best, and its abuse should be guarded against.

The memorial referred to cites the above facts in the experience of Route Agents, and after alluding to the difficulty, and in some cases, impossibility of properly mailing letters thus given the Route Agents, and to the comparative liability to unjust suspicion, as compared with local postmasters, in case of the loss or miscarriage of valuable letters thus mailed, (a point on which one at least of the signers has had practical experience,) suggests as a further limitation of the privilege, and preventive of its abuse, that letters thus mailed shall be prepaid at double rates, or, failing in that, shall be carried to the office at the end of the route on which they were mailed, there to be rated at double rates, and, of course, to be stamped as "mailed on the—route," or to bear some other suitable stamp in explanation of the double rating, "such rating" in the language of the memorial, "while it would not be felt as a hardship upon correspondence necessarily mailed with Route Agents, would in my opinion, decrease the number of letters thus mailed, would cause them to be mailed at the local offices, and would add somewhat to the revenues of the P. O. Department."

Without desiring to commit the Mail to the project thus suggested, I will say that the suggestions of so respectable and intelligent a body of men as the New England Route Agents, when based upon their own experience, are entitled to consideration, and I doubt not that the subject matter of their memorial will receive attention from the post office committee whenever it shall be submitted to them.

The British Post Office.

We find in a late number of the *London Review* an interesting article suggested by the Annual Report of Lord Stanley, the Postmaster General, from which we make the following extracts:

"When we find that the revenue of the Post Office is growing, we know that the accommodation which it is affording to the public is also growing in a far larger proportion. When we hear of treaties and conventions, by which it is placed in correspondence with similar departments in other countries, or is enabled to bring within the range of its operations distant colonies, and the remotest parts of our own kingdom, we know that these official triumphs are equivalent to some new breaches in the barriers of time or space which have heretofore obstructed that freedom and facility of intercommunication which contributes so much both to general civilization and to individual comfort and happiness."

"Some idea may be formed of the work which the Post Office has to do, when we mention that the distance over which mails are now conveyed within the United Kingdom was last year nearly 160,000 miles a day, being upwards of 7000 miles more than at the end of 1861; and besides this there is the foreign and colonial packet service, which employs 36 steamships, exclusive of tenders, and distributes our letters all over the world, from the neighboring port of Calais to Auckland in New Zealand, about 15,000 miles from Southampton. The voyages performed by these vessels during the year were equal in the aggregate to more than 3,000,000 miles. We have no account of the number of letters sent abroad; but during the last year there were delivered in the United Kingdom 65,000,000 letters, 76,000,000 newspapers, and 14,000,000 book packets."

"The practice of sending valentines shows no symptoms of falling off. Last year, 430,000 of these amatory effusions passed through the London office, being an increase of more than 30,000 upon the previous year, and in the present year there was a further and still larger increase."

"Let us now see what the Post Office has been doing as a banker. The humblest branch of this department is that which affords to the public the means of exchanging stamps for money at a charge of 2½ per cent. Under this arrangement, which practically amounts to a cheap money order system for small sums, a person may send stamps to the value of 3s. 4d. for one penny; to the value of 1s. 8d. for one half-penny. How extensively the public have availed themselves of the accommodation thus provided, may be seen from the fact that the sum paid in exchange for postage stamps amounted last year, in London alone, to nearly £50,000."

"During the last year, the number of money order offices in Great Britain and Ireland was increased to 2,873. They issued during the twelve months 7,557,045 orders, for sums amounting in the whole to £15,761,259. The increase on the amount was 8 per cent. as compared with the previous year. No doubt this large increase was partly due to the circumstance that the sum for which an order can be drawn was raised, on the 1st of January, 1862, from £5 to £10, but nevertheless the result is eminently satisfactory."

"Perhaps, however, the most interesting part of the Report is that which relates to the post office savings banks. These banks began operations in September, 1861. They were at first gradually and cautiously established; but as their success was proved their number was increased, until, at the close of 1862, they numbered 2,532, of which 1,935 were in England and Wales, 300 in Ireland and 299 in Scotland. Since the beginning of the present year 332 additional banks have been opened, bringing the total number up to 2,864. Reckoning from the commencement of the system, 260,320 persons have become depositors; 180,000 accounts having been opened in the year 1862. Up to the date of the Postmaster General's report, the gross amount of deposits (including interest up to the 1st of July, 1863) had been £2,552,296, while up to the close of last year the withdrawals had only been £438,378."

"One of the miscellaneous topics touched upon in the Report is the effect of railway traveling upon the health. Judging from his observation of the officers in the traveling branch of the mail office, Dr. Lewis, the medical officer of the Department, comes to the conclusion that "on the strong and healthy, railway traveling, if the amount be not excessive, and if the travelers take proper care of themselves, produces little or no injurious effect" (We cannot help pausing to call attention to the Bunby-like wisdom of the foregoing opinion as it is an opinion.—Ed. MAIL.) After so much grave statement, and so many dull statistics, it is quite refreshing to find Lord Stanley of Alderly relating into a gossiping mood towards the close of his labors. As his Lordship has subtlety so far as to give the two Houses of Parliament an account of a curious accident which befel one of the pillar boxes at Montrose, we need offer no apology for transferring the story to our less dignified and official pages:

"The street gas-pipes having been opened for the purpose of examination and repair, an escape took place, and some of the gas found its way into the letter-box. The night watchman, to light his pipe, struck a match on the top of the box, when a violent explosion took place, forcing out the door, and doing other damage, but fortunately causing no injury either to the watchman or the letters."

Hon. Mr. ZEVELY.—We learn with the greatest satisfaction, that this useful officer has just returned to Washington and resumed his duties as Third Assistant Postmaster General, and what is still better, that his health has, by his long western journey "overland," been materially improved, if not entirely restored. During his absence C. F. MACDONALD, Esq., has proved himself a most competent representative.

Enclosing Stamps

The introduction of stamps and subsequent compulsory prepayment of postage, has rendered necessary the observance, of many minutiae of courtesy and propriety which were not required under the former dispensation. At present, when a letter is written, the question always arises (or should arise,) whether a stamp should be enclosed for the return postage. And this question is not always of so little importance as might at first sight appear. The revised post-office laws which went into operation in July last, necessitate still further care in this matter. For under these regulations, if a letter is only partially prepaid (e.g. if it has but one 3 cent stamp when it should have two,) instead of being charged with only enough to make up the deficiency, the stamps already attached go for nothing, and the receiver of the letter is obliged to pay a double rate. Thus, if A writes a letter to B weighing over half an ounce and less than an ounce, and attaches only one three cent stamp, six cents will be charged to B for the letter, such tax increasing according to the weight of the missive sent.

Justice and courtesy require that when a letter is written asking information or requesting a favor of any kind, the writer should enclose stamps to prepay the expected answer. This is also a matter of policy. A stamp or two, one may say, is a small affair either way, but such apparent trifles have no little influence upon good feeling between the parties concerned. A receives a letter from B, requesting him to make some inquiries solely for the benefit of B, but containing no stamp. Unless A is of a remarkably easy disposition and not readily annoyed, he will think, if he does not say, "what does the man mean by asking me to attend to his business and pay postage too," and the chances are that by way of punishing his friend's negligence he will take his own time for complying with his request. And should such a letter be short-paid, say one stamp attached instead of two, A will have the pleasure of paying six cents for the letter and three for his own reply if he does reply, thus accumulating nine cents' worth of wrath upon B's delinquent head. A piece of carelessness like this, is what no person should ever be guilty of, for if there is the least doubt whether the letter is over weight, the point can be settled at once at the mailing office.

It may be argued by some correspondents that the person addressed is well able to pay the trifling amount of a stamp or two. But they overlook the fact that a man's indifference to small amounts does not increase with his riches.

A millionaire, who is generous and ever ready to subscribe his fifty, or hundred, or five hundred dollars to any object of public benefit, is quite as likely to feel the mosquito-biting of an omitted postage stamp as the man at the other end of the pecuniary scale. In a case like this the more accurate are the business habits of the person, the more the annoyance will be felt.

It is difficult to provide any rule for the aid or guidance of correspondents, on this subject. There may be cases in which the enclosure of a reply stamp in letters—between relations or old friends for instance—might give offence, however well intended, though even in respect to this description of letters, should they require of the party addressed to go out of his way for information sought or any business to be transacted, a stamp would often be found a profitable investment as a reminder, and as constituting an obligation, as who would coolly pocket even so small an amount of another's property in silence?

For the U. S. Mail.

Mr. Editor:—By the recent Act of Congress to regulate the rate of postage, the charge on transient newspapers is so fully and clearly set forth, that it would seem that no person even of the most ordinary intelligence could possibly fail to understand it. And when it is considered that instructions from the Post Office Department, explaining its provisions, were sent to all the Deputy Postmasters, it appears incredible that any Post Office official, provided he could read the English language, should be misled. Yet I have met with a postmaster who refused to mail a package of newspapers, weighing less than 3 ozs., unless six cents was prepaid on it, and returned it with this endorsement on the wrapper, "3 papers at 2cts. 6cts.; dcts. paid, dcts. due. (signed) E. M., P. M."

Now Mr. Editor, what is the proper remedy for such ignorance, negligence and dereliction of duty? Schoolmasters and an expensive system of Public Schools would seem to be of little avail, if we cannot find postmasters who are capable of understanding so simple a business as the ordinary every-day rate of newspaper postage.

ANSWER:—A complaint to the Department in the case of a postmaster habitually making such overcharge would no doubt lead to a prompt remedy.

OWEGO.—We gave in our last issue, some statistics purporting to show the amount of business transacted in the Owego, N. Y. post office. The item was applicable to the Owego, Tioga Co., office.

Ladies' Letters.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL.—Will you allow a snuffing post office clerk to submit, through your columns his humble petition to that large portion of his fair countrywomen who favor the mails with the pleasing duty of conveying their correspondence? There has lately come into fashion, (and, consequently, into high favor with the ladies) an envelope of most obnoxious and inconvenient nature to post office clerks. I allude to those oblong abominations about one inch deep, by from two to three and a half inches long, which seem to have been invented with a special design to vex the souls of those whose duty it is to sort them in the mails. Their absurd shape render them peculiarly liable to be overlooked when placed among letters of the ordinary size, while the limited surface which they afford for the inscription, renders the latter exceedingly apt to be obliterated by the postmark—and every one who has ever handled ladies' letters knows that there is no need of making the addresses any more indistinct and uncertain than the dear creatures themselves are apt to make them. No doubt a delicate Italian hand is "an excellent thing in woman"—with those invisible down-strokes and imperceptible up-strokes, and those marvellously attenuated calligraphic capitals, the like whereof are unknown in any human language. No doubt the love-smiten Adolphus or Augustus considers those mysterious characters the perfection of cigraphy, and kisses them and buttons the precious billet under his vest, with a blessing on the pretty hand that wrote it: but poor Smith, Brown and Jones, the post office clerks, through whose hands the scented missive has to pass, are tempted to the expression of sentiments of a very different nature, as they strain their eyesight and puzzle their brains in striving to decide whether what is meant for Angelina Spriggins is Angelina Higgins, or Aquaviva Wiggins, or whether the singular-looking words at the foot of the address most resemble Dan Loony's Cow, or Dave Cooney's Sow—and after about fifteen minutes' scrutiny conclude to send it to Doubtful Conn., as the locality for which it is probably intended. Those sweet pretty envelopes, and that dear little undecipherable scrawl may be very nice and very appropriate when you send your correspondences by your *confidante* or your servant, my dear young ladies; but if you would ensure the safe and speedy delivery of the letters you confide to the mails, pray enclose them in envelopes at least double the size of the postage-stamp, and address them (or ask your brothers to) in a hand-writing which may be read at the distance of three inches without the aid of a microscope. And your petitioner will ever pray, and so will many other

P. O. CLERKS.

Hon. ASHMAN WAKEMAN, Postmaster of this city, has recovered from his late illness, and resumed his official duties at the post office last week. We trust he will live long enough to witness the public execution of the miscreant who maliciously originated and publicly advertised the notice of his sudden demise which momentarily startled the community. The author of this malicious act was no doubt a high officer in a certain torchlight convention at Yorkville, during the late riots.

Letter Addresses.

Mister Henderson keeps a ehrist mill 8 miles from henderson. Postmaster if you so any one by this name please deliver to some neighbor of his if he should call in a day or so.

Charles C. Hughes saint laranCe cooty Raughsee N. Y.

Timothy Shay on the patch, outside the told gate Sweago Pitt America.

To Miss Mary ehelf, I have just as I recd, You'd convey the letter as not, In the county of Northampton, City of Easton, Old Pennsylvania state.

In the old Sucker State in the county of White, And the town of Carni, where I've often been tight, Dwells a fink of the law, a son of the trowel, A sweet little cuss and his name is McDowell. Take him this note if you can find out the place, In view of three cents I have stuck on the face, He'll be found at Dick Graham's or from there out far, Preach sing something at Tom Hargrave's bar. Hand him this letter; if he likes it at all, Leave as quick as you can, or he'll whip you like b—l

Mr. Michael Kennedy, the Connecticut Artillery, in Captain Shooman's Company in Hartford in New-Haven or in Fort Trumbull or elsewhere, America. Find him if you can, he was in the City Guard N. H. The last time I did see him, was in New-Haven, Conn. America.

"Over the hills in love and joy, This letter may go direct to Troy, And when there please to let it be, For 'tis for my sister, Miss Phebe." "Soldier's Letter." Let it go, His friends are waiting for to know If at Chickamanga he was killed, Or any of his blood was spilled.

Postmaster, please say which I'm to do, For the inside of this letter is surely for two, One half for O'Connor and t'other's for Neil, As they'll find out on breaking the seal. That they can't do, till they have it in hand, In 14th street, Broadway, New York City, land, For there their Popsy, if living, surely does dwell, If dead, it's a toss up whether in heaven or b—ll. Tomake a mistake you're surely not able— It's a billiard saloon, right over a stable.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1863.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1863.

DEAR SIR.—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster-General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster-General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

We have delayed this issue of our paper for some days, in hopes of receiving the advance proof sheets of the Annual Report of the Postmaster-General, which had been promised; but are disappointed in our expectation, as the Report is not perfected at the time of our going to press. We shall present a synopsis of the document in our next. The reports of all the Departments, in accordance with a resolution of the last Congress, will hereafter be submitted at the beginning, instead of at the close of the session.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO PATRONS.—Many subscribers will receive with this number, bills indicating the amount due on their subscription. We hope to receive prompt returns. We have not heretofore been sufficiently particular for our own good or that of our patrons, in regard to our advance terms. Some of them now owe us for two volumes, including the present one. A portion of the bills now sent will be found to be fractional, the object being to make the payments as uniform as possible for convenience, up to number 48, or to the close of this volume.

In some cases, unrecipited bills may be received by those who have quite recently made us remittances. This has been unavoidable, owing to the difficulty of withdrawing and recollecting them in time.

We are again obliged to ask the indulgence of some of our correspondents for the absence of their favors in the Mail for this month. The length of a few of them, is inconsistent with the variety we desire to maintain. There are a very few subjects on postal affairs, to which owing to our rather circumscribed limits, we can afford to devote more than one column.

We are obliged for the interest shown by Special Agents, Route Agents, and Postmasters, in the increased circulation of the U. S. Mail. To their kind attentions and official commendations we are indebted, in a considerable degree at least, for steady acquisitions to our subscription list. Those who receive the Mail and have not yet tried their influence upon neighboring postmasters, will please do so when convenient, provided they think it will subserve the public interest and the postal service.

Useful suggestions and items of interest for our columns are always acceptable, while they serve to lighten the editorial labor materially. Correspondents will, however, please condense such contributions as much as possible, owing to our limited space. The neglect of this, has compelled us to omit several communications until the January number.

POSTAGES.—A good many complaints continue to reach us from distant subscribers of the non-receipt of single copies of the Mail, and when we have attempted to supply the deficiency, sometimes even for the second time, the duplicate copies have also failed. We cannot imagine the cause of this, in a single instance. Our papers are put up and directed by experienced and careful hands, and we dislike to think that any of them are intercepted in post offices. We know how annoying these failures must be, and we shall take increased precautions to prevent them in future.

Correspondents will oblige us by sending in their communications as early in the month as possible, say within the first two weeks. It will be much more apt to secure the insertion of their favors. Besides, reliable answers to many inquiries on official subjects, require time, and often a reference to head quarters.

We have on hand a number of official questions on matters of more or less importance, which we preferred to submit to the Department before answering. Preparations for the opening of Congress have so occupied the heads of the different Bureaus, that we may not receive the replies in time for this number.

Official.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
FINANCE OFFICE, November 23, 1863.

SIR.—The Commissioners of Internal Revenue having decided that the oath required by the act of 3d March, 1863, to accompany the quarterly account current of each postmaster shall have affixed thereon a revenue stamp of the denomination of five cents, I have to request that you will be pleased to cause the insertion, in the next number of the "U. S. Mail," of such notice to postmasters as will inform them of the requirements of the law in the premises.

Very respectfully yours,
A. N. ZEVELY.

Third Assistant P. M. General.

J. Holbrook, Esq.
Special Agent P. O. D. New York

Registered Letters

BY THE HAMBURG MAIL.—Additional Articles to the United States and Hamburg Postal Convention, providing for the registration of valuable letters, exchanged in the mails between the two countries, (similar to those concluded with the Post Office Department of Bremen) have been executed with the Government of Hamburg.

These articles go into operation on the 1st of December 1863, and after which date the Registration fee upon each registered letter forwarded in the mails to Hamburg, will be five cents.

EXAMINING NEWSPAPERS, ETC.—Some diversity of opinion exists respecting the late increased authority given to postmasters to enable them the more effectually to discover and suppress the practice of writing upon the margins of newspapers and other printed matter.

Our own opinion is, that the increased postage on transient newspapers will do much to check this paltry kind of cheating. Two cents were formerly saved by each operation, when successful; now but one, with the chances of detection greatly increased. Letters will be apt to take the place of transients.

We are asked by many postmasters if they are, under the law, required to absolutely open or remove the wrapper from each such transient package before delivery, in search of contraband information, even in cases where one end of the wrapper is left open, so that the nature of its enclosure can be thus determined? From the impossibility of doing this in offices of the largest class existing in suspicious cases, and owing to the known unwillingness of Postmaster General Blair to impose on the public any unnecessary surveillance in the use of the mails, we are prepared to construe the law and the instructions on this subject as not requiring the opening of the coverings of all transient newspapers, &c., indiscriminately. We think that this provision of the law was intended to confer renewed authority to open and inspect any package of printed matter which may be attended with even slight suspicions of fraud on the revenues of the Department.

The new law is not considered any more stringent in its requirements, relative to the examination of printed matter, to enable postmasters to detect fraud upon the revenue, than regulation 139, under the old law.

Then, as now, when postmasters had reason to suspect that fraud was intended, it was expected that their examination would be careful and rigid; but in ordinary cases the privilege of removing the wrapper was intrusted to the party addressed. We know of no reason why the same courtesy should not be continued.

Route Agents' Petition.

In another column will be found an allusion, by a correspondent, to a petition to be presented to Congress from Eastern Route Agents, asking some relief from the troublesome consequences of the practice of placing letters in their hands to be mailed upon the cars. This practice has always constituted one of the most annoying features in the whole range of postal affairs, since the employment of Route Agents. Before the use of government envelopes, and when there was no way to send letters outside the mail legally, except by private hands, it seemed quite reasonable that the citizens along the railroad lines should be accommodated, in respect to such letters as were unavoidably written too late for the hours of closing the mails at their local post offices. But this somewhat naturally led to procrastination in preparing letters, and out of this and other causes, has grown the evil complained of.

One of the worst things resulting from this "privilege" has been the encouragement of falsehood in perhaps thousands of instances, parties often falsely insisting that the letters offered could not have been prepared in season for the post office proper, the Department's instructions having always strictly limited the Agent and the public to that rule. It has also been the cause of constant disputes between citizens and Route Agents, whose positions are perplexing and responsible enough without such annoyances. And yet up to the present time the receipt of letters by Route Agents, has not been entirely forbidden, owing to occasional instances where it would undoubtedly prove a real hardship.

We like the plan proposed of double postage charges on this class of letters, as most likely to correct the abuse, and that requires the authority of Congress. Any remedy short of that, would be under the control of the P. M. General, who has the power to cut off the "privilege" altogether. The adoption of government envelopes so that late letters could be handed to the expressmen who are almost always to be found upon the same train with the mail agents, would also seem to be a very easy and reasonable substitute for the present practice. With this view postmasters along railroad lines should provide themselves with a constant supply of the official envelopes. Any violation of the law by the public will then be entirely without excuse.

General Duties of Postmasters.

We frequently receive from postmasters inquiries as to whether it is proper, or expected by the Department, that they should take official notice of irregularities in any department of the mail service which may come to their knowledge or observation, when such occurrences take place beyond the sphere of their local duties. It is expected of every postmaster that he will study the interests of the service in all respects and endeavor to promote them by all means in his power, and not confine himself to the routine duties of his own office. Chapter 31 of the Regulations is exclusively devoted to instructions to postmasters on this subject, and begins with the following words: "Every postmaster will consider himself the agent of the Department in regard to its affairs in his immediate vicinity, so far as to carefully observe, and promptly report to it, everything tending to affect its interests, efficiency and utility." It is specially enjoined upon postmasters, that they will keep a vigilant eye upon the manner in which the mails are carried to and from their respective offices; to see that the mail carrier is of proper age and not unfit, for any cause, for the performance of his duties; that the mails when in transit are carefully protected from the weather; that the bags and locks are in proper order, &c., and to exercise a general supervision over the safety of the mails. We have heard complaints from citizens of gross irregularities in the mail service which they had observed and repeatedly brought to the notice of their local postmaster, who dismissed the subject with the remark that it was none of his business—that he had enough to do to run his own office without interfering with what did not concern him, &c. Such culpable heedlessness of the public interests and those of the Department, is inexcusable; and we doubt not, if so palpable a neglect of official duty were made known at Washington, it would lead to the speedy relief from all official duties of one who no little comprehends the nature and extent of his responsibilities.

For the U. S. Mail.

Sending Letters Outside the Mail.

A case of more than usual importance to the business community was decided by the United States Court for the Western District of Michigan, at Grand Rapids on the 27th of October, 1863, the particulars of which were as follows:

Business men on the line of one of the principal railroads have been in the habit of sending their business correspondence on the freight and mail trains, marked R. E. B. or R. R. S., in violation of the 139th section of the postal laws, which is to the following effect:

"That all persons whatsoever, who shall transmit by any other means than the regular mail service, any letter, package or other mailable matter, excepting newspapers, magazines and periodicals, or who shall deliver or deposit for the purpose of being transported by such unlawful means, the said mailable matter, shall forfeit and pay the sum of \$50."

The attention of Special Agent VAN VECHTEN was called to the matter, a quantity of letters seized, and the party sending them was presented to the Grand Jury for indictment, and a bill found against three prominent business men. In one bill there were fifteen counts, the other two one count each. The parties were arraigned and pleaded guilty.

This custom had become general on the line of many railroads—so much so that the Post Office Department suffered great loss.

The attention of the railroad officers has been called to the 157th and 158th sections of the postal law. Those sections make the railroad company liable to a fine of \$100 for each and every letter carried outside of the mail, except those written by the officers of the road or their agents to the officers or employees, unless said letters are inclosed in a government stamped envelope of suitable denomination, and of the same value as the legal postage would be, were it sent by mail. The envelope must be addressed with ink and sealed. The law also imposes a fine of \$50 on the conductor of the train for each and every letter carried in violation of said section.

The arrest of the parties above mentioned created considerable excitement among the business men, as many more had been engaged in the violation, but did not happen to get caught. It is but fair to state that the parties pleaded ignorance of the law, and this article is for the purpose of calling the attention of others who have in like manner violated the law.

OFFICIAL ENVELOPES.—We hear frequent complaints from citizens of small country towns, that they cannot purchase government envelopes at their local post offices, and that they have appealed in vain to the postmaster to provide them for the public. This is entirely wrong, and not only a neglect of the requirements of the Department, but likely to affect its revenues, for those whose convenience may lead them to send letters outside the mail, will be very apt to find some mode of conveyance free of postage, having tried in vain to comply with the letter of the law.

The real need of these envelopes, it should be remembered, is by no means confined to large communities. Stages and other public conveyances are now found in nearly all country towns and villages, and in very many of them Express facilities are enjoyed, directly or indirectly. The mails do not go frequently enough or at the proper hours, perhaps, to accommodate the business or other necessities of many of the citizens, a large majority of whom would no doubt from a sense of duty willingly render unto Uncle Sam the things that are Uncle Sam's; by sending their urgent messages, orders &c., in the official envelopes if they could be procured. We are well satisfied that by keeping a supply of them on hand and exercising proper vigilance in seeing that the law is strictly complied with, postmasters may save a large amount to the Department annually.

Depredation Cases.

ARREST AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.—On the 25th of November, Special Agent Van Vehton arrested John Courath, a clerk in Ann Arbor post office, for depredations. There was found in his possession, and secreted in his mother's house, \$822, \$795 of which was in treasury notes. He denied any knowledge of the reported losses, did not know to whom the treasury notes secreted in the house belonged, and asserted his innocences for some time, but finally, after consultation with his friends, and seeing the hopelessness of his denying it longer, he made a full confession. Losses to the amount of \$339 had been reported, all of which he confessed he had taken, and gave the addresses of soldiers' letters and others that he had robbed, amounting in all \$565.

He had been building a house for his parents, furnishing it, and spending considerable money. He exchanged a great proportion of the money taken, for money belonging to the post office, and the postmaster had paid out the stolen money without knowing it had been taken from letters passing through his office. If parties who had mailed money could have identified it, the postmaster having been found passing it, he might possibly have been convicted for the depredations innocently, and been unable to show where he received the money from. This is another illustration that depredation cases cannot be handled too carefully.

The Grand Jury for the Eastern District of Michigan were dismissed on the 24th ult., and Courath was committed to await his trial in March, 1864.

ARREST AT KENDALLVILLE IND.—On the 24th, November, Silas W. Johnson, who had been employed as clerk in the post office at Kendallville, Noble County, Indiana, was arrested by Judge SLOANE, Special Agent, P. O. Dept., for taking and opening letters in said office. One letter containing \$68, from Tiffin, Ohio, and several others, had been traced by Judge S. to the Kendallville P. O. The young man waived the examination before the preliminary court, and was held to bail in the sum of \$500, for his appearance at the next term of the United States Court at Indianapolis. Judge Sloane ascertained several places where the young man had traded post office stamps, in one case paying \$12 worth toward an overcoat.

Life Insurance.

We believe ourselves justified in assuming that the majority of persons connected with the postal service is composed of those who, if not poor, are at least not independently rich, and who, if suddenly called on to set their house in order in preparation for death, would feel a painful degree of apprehension with regard to the future material prospects of those dependent upon them for support. The salaries of post office clerks do not generally admit of a very extensive laying up against a rainy day, and the end of each year usually finds them not much better off than they were at its beginning—with no provision made for the support of a family in case of their death—a state of things which, to a person of ordinary feeling and a proper appreciation of his social duties, can hardly fail to be a subject of constant anxiety. We have on a previous occasion called the attention of our readers, and especially those connected with the Post Office Department, to the importance and advisability of availing themselves of the inestimable advantages of the system of Life Insurance, the good effects of which we have so often witnessed. A number of cases have occurred within our own observation where post office clerks, dying, have been enabled to leave in comparative comfort families who, but for the beneficent workings of the life insurance system, would have been left destitute or dependent upon the charitable offices of strangers or—what is sometimes worse—cast, an unwelcome burden, upon their relatives. We have no doubt that all that can be said in praise of life insurance will be at once admitted by all our readers—and yet, so far as we have been able to learn, very few persons out of the 30,000 or more connected with the post office throughout the country, have been found to use this ready means of relieving their wives and children from a part, at least, of the ills which the death of a husband and father would entail upon them. We speak earnestly upon this subject, as we believe it to be one upon which it is the duty of all persons not absolutely rich to reflect, and we trust that our remarks may have the effect of inducing many of our readers to think and act upon our advice. There are a multitude of well-established and safe Insurance Companies among which a choice can be made—but we speak of what we know when we say that none are more entirely trustworthy, or offer new advantages to the insured, than the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, having its principal office in Boston, and agencies in most of our cities. The names of WILLARD PHILLIPS and B. F. STAVENS, its President and Secretary, are alone sufficient guarantees of our statement.

To those who hesitate to incur the expense of a life insurance policy, it may be well to state that for about \$40 per year an insurance for life for \$2000 may be effected by a person 25 years of age, while for a term of years only a still smaller payment will suffice.

CHICAGO POST OFFICE.—In a letter just received from a friend, a citizen of Chicago, Ill., incidental allusion is made to the present management of the post office in that city, which is spoken of as "very satisfactory to the public generally, and as near to the standard of a model office as any other in the country great or small."

We have never had the pleasure of visiting that office, but we feel sure that this compliment is well deserved. Since Mr. SCARFF became postmaster, it is well known that the office has enjoyed an excellent reputation, both at home and at Washington.

UNPAID PRINTED MATTER.—We perceive that not a few postmasters consider it to be a part of their duty to throw out of the mail, newspapers and other packages of printed matter passing through their offices, which there are no stamp marks indicating prepayment, or that they are "regulars," and especially when circumstances seem to warrant the belief that such unpaid newspapers, &c., did not come from an office of publication. There is no authority for such a course, nor does the least responsibility for such supposed delinquencies rest upon any intermediate office. The affair is between the mailing and the receiving offices, it being the duty of the latter to collect double transient postage on the unpaid article, and to report the office at fault, if known, should such neglect of duty be come frequent.

The simple rule is, that a postmaster cannot detain or interfere in any way with any package not addressed to his office, unless such package is of his proper course, and then the error should be corrected as promptly as possible.

BREVITY IN OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.—We would suggest to postmasters, and all others having official correspondence with the Post Office Department, the propriety and policy of so wording their epistles, as to say as much as possible in the least possible space—and to carefully avoid all "vain repetitions" and irrelevant remarks. Brevity in such matters is a virtue sure to be appreciated at the Department, and a lengthy epistle are by no means certain to receive careful perusal, unless they relate to very important matters. The examples, in this respect, furnished by the officers and some of the corresponding clerks of the Department in their official letters, should not be lost on those who receive them. The same remarks will doubtless apply to correspondence with any of the other Departments.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL.—Allow us to ask the following questions, viz.—Are postmasters bound, or expected to receive torn or mutilated postal currency for stamps?

Are postmasters obliged to moisten and apply stamps to mail matter left for mailing, by all persons indiscriminately? Courtesy prompts us to oblige ladies and children, and we are pleased to do so—and occasionally in other cases when convenient; but there are times when we are hurried so that it is quite unpleasant to be detained in making change and applying the stamp. There are many men who seem to regard it the duty of a P. M. to apply their stamps—and act accordingly.

Neither postmasters nor in fact any other class of citizens, are obliged to receive torn or mutilated currency of any kind. In the largest post offices, it is invariably thrown out if imperfect in any respect, as it is not taken on deposit at the Sub-Treasury office. Nor are there any official obligations in regard to placing stamps upon letters, to accommodate an outsider. As well might the stationer, who sells the paper and envelope, be required to write the letter. The act is entirely optional with postmasters, and our correspondent takes about the right view of the matter.—(ED. MAIL.)

EDITOR OF MAIL.—I would like to inquire if one person can send a paper regularly to another, at the same price they received it from the publisher. One of my customers insists that he can send a weekly to his son in the army, by paying me five cents a quarter.

We notice this somewhat trifling question, simply as a specimen of many like it that we receive, and which would be found fully answered by referring to the laws, or the columns of the Mail. We hardly need remark that postage on newspapers and periodicals can only be paid by the quarter, or year, when sent to "actual subscribers."

Frequent applications are received by us, for copies of the post office laws of 1863. Every postmaster is entitled to one copy of the laws and instructions, and it is understood that they have all been supplied by the Department. If any office has not been overlooked, or the document for any cause has not been received, application should be made to the First Assistant P. M. General, Washington. The Department does not furnish copies to private citizens. By private enterprise, however, the law has been printed in various forms, and may be had at the book-stores in our large cities.

Among the candidates for the Clerkship of the U. S. House of Representatives, we notice the name of Hon. GREEN ADAMS, now Auditor of the Post Office Department. In the event of his success, it is rumored that JOHN F. SHANNON, Esq., the able Chief Clerk of the Auditor's Office, and for some time past the Acting Auditor, will no doubt be appointed to fill the vacancy.

RIGHTS OF NEWSDEALERS.—An editorial paragraph appeared in our last, touching the rights of newsdealers in sending newspapers through the mail to regular subscribers. It was in type before the Order from the Department, published in the same number, was received, but was, however, in accordance with the official construction of the law upon that subject previously in force. By an oversight it was not withdrawn. We trust that no particular confusion resulted from the very apparent inconsistency between the two paragraphs.

The new Order, it will be observed, temporarily extends the same privileges to newsdealers as are enjoyed by regular publishers. We have no doubt that further legislation will be recommended on this and some other points embraced in the law of the last session of Congress.

MORE LOTTERY SWINDLES.—Since the exposure in our columns of the Cherruboso lottery swindle, we have had our attention called to several other similar schemes. One "B. Frank Cushing" has been issuing large quantities of tickets for bogus lotteries under the names of "Conscript's Jubilee," "Annual Conference of the Ben Franklin Associates," &c., all purporting to be drawn at Hampstead, N. H. It has not been a very successful swindle. While on this subject we would call the attention of postmasters to the penalty prescribed by Sec. 94 of the Postal Laws, published 1859, for being concerned in any way in lottery schemes, whether bona fide or fictitious.

EXAMINING NEWSPAPERS.—Under a recent decision, members of Congress may frank packages, weight not to exceed four ounces, containing any description of mailable matter. This embraces, of course, periodicals, newspapers, and all kinds of printed articles.

UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Vol. IV. No. 4.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1864.

Whole No. 40.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

We give below some extracts from the Report of the Postmaster General, which embrace the most important portions of the document. Further extracts will appear in our next number.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1863, the financial condition of the Department has been one of increasing prosperity, and it is gratifying to be able to state that the actual postal revenue has nearly equalled the entire expenditures—the latter amounting to \$11,314,206 84, and the former to \$11,163,789 59, leaving a deficiency of but \$150,417 25. There is, therefore, good reason to expect that within a brief period the Department will become self-sustaining.

The whole number of post offices remaining established on the 30th June, 1863, including the suspended offices in the insurrectionary States, was 29,947, showing an increase over the preceding year of 172. Postmasters are appointed at 550 of these offices by the President, and at 28,497 by the Postmaster General.

Eight hundred and thirty post offices have been established during the year, and 658 have been discontinued. The number of names and addresses that have been changed, involving a change of postmasters in most instances, is 222, and there have been 2,431 resignations of postmasters, 245 deaths, 1,116 removals. The whole number of cases acted upon is 5,501, and the number of postmasters changed from all causes during the year is 3,956.

The number of Special Agents in the service at the close of the fiscal year was sixteen, whose aggregate salaries amounted to \$26,500. The number of Route Agents was 387, at an aggregate compensation of \$289,260; the number of Baggage Masters in charge of through or express mails was 93, at an aggregate pay of \$7,440; and the number of local agents was 45, at a compensation of 27,824.

LETTER-CARRIERS.
The law authorizing the free delivery of mail matter by carriers took effect on the first day of July last. About that time the system was put in operation at 49 of the larger offices, with a competent corps of carriers to each, numbering in the aggregate 449, at an aggregate annual compensation of \$300,680.

Our own experience and that of Europe demonstrates that correspondence increases with every facility for its conduct, and free delivery in the principal towns and cities has been proved in this country to be a facility attended with very remarkable results. Further time is required to prove whether it will operate in the same way here, but, as far as ascertained, the results are highly satisfactory.

In the city of New York there are now, daily, five deliveries from the office, and six collections of letters for the mails from the depositors in the various parts of the city. During the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1863, there were delivered by carriers 2,069,418 letters, and 1,810,717 collected for the mails and city delivery, being an increase of 968,825 letters (about 25 per cent.) over the preceding and last quarter under the old system. Returns from other offices indicate results equally flattering.

GERMAN POSTAL UNION.
I regret to state that no progress has been made since my last report in the negotiations for a new postal convention with Prussia, embracing the States composing the German-Austrian Postal Union. It was then confidently expected that a new convention, resulting in important reductions of postage, the conclusion of which was made to depend upon the concurrent action of Great Britain, would have been agreed upon at an early date. But on account of some obstacle presented by Austria in respect to a proposed reduction of the territorial transit charges upon British closed mails conveyed through that country no result has been attained.

GREATER BRITAIN.
Additional articles to the United States and British postal convention have been agreed upon, reducing the transit charges upon all closed mails sent by either country through the territory of the other, to a uniform standard of four pence (eight cents) per ounce for letters, and five pence (ten cents) per pound for printed papers. The reduced rates, however, are not to take effect until the negotiations pending between the British post office and the German post offices, on the subject of a mutual exchange of closed mails, have been satisfactorily concluded.

Additional articles have also been agreed upon between this Department and the British Post Office, establishing, on the part of the United States, a new office of exchange at San Francisco for the correspondence despatched from the United Kingdom for California, Oregon, Washington Territory, the Sandwich Islands, British Columbia, and Vancouver's Island.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL CONFERENCE.
In my last annual report, I stated some of the reasons which rendered general concert of action necessary between the Post Office Department of the United States and the postal administrations of foreign governments. The conference, at that time proposed, assembled at Paris on the 11th day of May, 1863, and its deliberations were conducted under the presidency of the able director general of posts of France, M. Vandal. A more numerous representation of foreign governments appeared than I had ventured to anticipate. Delegates were present from the post departments of Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Spain, the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, the Sandwich Islands, Switzerland, and the Hawaiian cities; and the government of Ecuador adhered by letter to the action of the conference. The debates net only exhibited distinguished ability, and a thorough acquaintance with postal relations, but a most gratifying spirit of liberality towards the popular interests involved in international intercourse. In addition to the principles settled by the conference, the information with respect to different systems of administration, exchanged among the delegates, gave a new motive to postal improvement. Much valuable information touching foreign administrations, which was transmitted to this de-

partment in the reports of the United States delegate, will aid me in the future improvements in our domestic administration, which I hope to effect at an early period.

I deem it proper, in concluding my remarks on this subject, to make known the fact that the public owes the suggestion to invite this international conference to the Hon. John A. Kasson, who represented our government in it with such zeal and ability as to command the thanks and warm approval of his associates—I do not doubt that important and lasting advantages are to flow from this conference, due in a great degree to his assiduity, practical ability, and earnestness in the cause of progress.

Compared with the service of the 30th of June, 1862, the length of mail routes is increased 5,585 miles, with an annual increase of transportation of 2,793,490 miles, at a decrease in cost of \$113,258, being about two per cent. This saving is due principally to the result of the lettings of 1862, and the operations of the service under the system of considering such bids alone as are made according to the requirements of the act of March 3, 1845, for letting the contracts for transportation of the mails, and which has already been referred to in the report of 1862.

OVERLAND MAILS.
The contract on the overland route from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Placerville, California, authorized by the act of Congress of March 2, 1861, will expire by its own limitation on the 30th June, 1864. To continue the service I have divided the route into four parts, and issued invitations for proposals to convey the mails on these divisions as separate routes, the whole, however, being united by continuous schedules so as to form one route, as at present, but terminating at Folsom City, at the intersection of the Sacramento Valley railroad, instead of Placerville.

The act of Congress directing one continuous route limits the duration of the service under it to June 30, 1864. To continue the service beyond that date I have fallen back upon the various enactments of Congress, covering the whole line as post roads in detachable portions. This seems to me to be the preferable mode of letting the service, and most likely to secure the best terms. Legislation will therefore only be needed to secure the conveyance by sea of printed matter intended for the west coast, and for raising the rates of postage on a *ch matter* for intermediate places on the overland route. The last day for receiving bids for these routes is, however, fixed for the 3d of March, 1864, allowing sufficient time for any action that Congress may deem best to adopt. The service on this route has been performed during the past year with commendable regularity and efficiency, and no accident, Indian hostility, or other casualty has occurred to prevent or retard the safe and prompt transmission of mails and passengers, the trips being, with rare exceptions, accomplished within the scheduled time.

The experience of the past year gives every reason to believe that the gross revenues of the Department for the year 1864 will equal, if they do not considerably exceed, the estimates thereof submitted in the last annual report, and that the expenditures will not surpass the amount therein stated. The appropriations already made for the service of the current fiscal year are therefore ample.

STAMPS AND ENVELOPES ISSUED.
The number of postage stamps, stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers, sent to postmasters during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1863, is given in detail in table No. 10 in the Appendix to this report. The value of the stamps issued during that period was \$9,650,384, of stamped letter envelopes, \$634,821, and of stamped newspaper wrappers \$20,545. The aggregate value of the issue of the year under notice, as compared with that of the preceding year, shows an increase of \$2,509,668. The total value of stamps and stamped envelopes sold by postmasters during the year, as ascertained from the records of the Auditor of the treasury for this Department was \$9,624,529 62, which exceeds, by \$2,714,397 73, the sales of the previous fiscal year.

[We shall conclude our extracts from this interesting Report in our next number.]

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO, December, 1863.

EDITOR MAIL:
Sir—I hope most sincerely that the readers of the *Mail* will not regard me in the light of a cynic or fault-finder, because, in the course of my peregrinations, many things have and will come under my observation which do not accord with my ideas of propriety, and which I felt and will feel called upon to mention in the spirit of philanthropy and brotherly love towards all the world, to the end that these evils may be corrected, and thus render our terrestrial sphere so nearly perfect, that we shall be ready for the Millennium at any time on about thirty days' notice.

I don't like to find fault. I wish everything would move on precisely as it ought to. But alas! in this sinful world, where selfishness, ambition and stupidity all play such prominent parts, it cannot be reasonably expected, and in none of the multifarious phases of life do these ill-favored ingredients make themselves more disagreeably conspicuous than in our Postal Department, interwoven as it is with every public and private enterprise, and with every individual interest, almost, throughout the land.

I remarked in my last letter that I did not like to see post offices converted into club rooms, where the acquaintances of the postmaster could feel at liberty to lounge at pleasure, and "particular friends" step into the hack room and help themselves to their own mail, and perhaps gratify their curiosity by peeping into the boxes of their neighbors, to see what papers they are taking, and where their letters were

postmarked. In some of the very small offices extraordinary privileges are extended to the people.

Last week, while journeying westward, circumstances obliged me to stop over night at the railroad station at A—. I don't consider it a flourishing place. The station consists of a rough, board shanty, presided over by a brief, rotund unpretending, with a poll as smooth and polished as a billiard ball. I enquired my way to the village, a short distance off, and having the night before me, with nothing in particular to do, I naturally sought out the post office, which I found located in a corner of the village inn, in a room originally fitted up for a store. A sign over the door indicated that mercantile transactions were still carried on there by one M—, but as subsequent inspection revealed the fact that the stock in trade consisted of a little case of candy, three herrings, a plug of tobacco, two wet-stones and a keg of nails, I inferred that the business was principally retail.

The office was closed when I arrived. I inquired at the tavern at what hour it opened, and was informed that there was no regular time for it, the postmaster was not there much himself, but he always left the key with my informant, who good naturedly produced it, and told me I could go in and see if there was anything for me! This struck me as such a novel method of keeping a post office, that I availed myself of his offer, and was soon ensconced in the deserted "store," monarch of all I surveyed.

Ere long an old lady entered, adjusted her spectacles and proceeded to make strict search for an expected epistle. Then a small boy on a similar errand, then an Irish gentleman whom I had observed presiding over the switch at the R. R. Station—and so on, until I judged the greater part of the inhabitants had dropped in to take a look for themselves as to whether the afternoon's mail had brought aught for them. At length the postmaster arrived, a thin, tall, but not intellectual looking individual, whose fierce look did not well accord with his lax mode of conducting his business.

"You don't seem to be closely confined to your office," I observed, after a brief interchange of greetings.

"Wal, no," he replied. "You see, Captain, the consarn don't pay over big, nor mor'n twenty five dollars a year, less than a man kin live on these times. Folks know their own letters, or ought to, and so long as the keys is up in the tavern everybody kin help themselves."

"But is the system exactly a safe one?" I ventured to ask.

"Safe!" echoed my acquaintance, "You don't suppose that any man in *this* town would go and steal other folks letters and newspapers do you?"

Of course nothing was further from my mind than any insinuation of the kind, but possibly in other places where this free and easy custom prevails, general honesty may not so universally abound. What do you think Mr. Editor?

MONSIEUR TONSON.

SMALL POTATOES.—Certain "Insurance Companies" in the West—genuine or bogus, as the case may be—are attempting to save the Registry fee upon valuable letters sent to them by their agents by supplying the latter with printed blanks for the postmaster to sign, certifying that he has seen the money enclosed, and giving the address of the letter, and the name of the person mailing the same, &c.

There is nothing in the Regulations of the Department forbidding any proper act of courtesy on the part of a postmaster, outside of his ordinary official duties. A loan of his boots or overcoat to a friend, or the opening of his office at unusual hours for the delivery of letters, certifying to the contents and address and name of the writer of a letter is irregular, and therefore not to be practised, as the Registry system makes ample provision for all such proofs and safeguards, and in justice to the revenues of the Department, no other receipts or certificates should be furnished in respect to money or other letters. If a postmaster is disposed, in addition to the forms of registration, to be a witness to the amount of money or other inclosures, and to make a private entry of it, we can see no objection to such a course. It might, in fact, be of great importance, when relating to the mailing of legal documents. But even that would be merely an act of personal courtesy, and entirely at the option of the postmaster.

We learn from a friend just from Memphis, Tenn., that the business of the post-offices in that city has become very heavy and is constantly increasing, and that the excellent management of its affairs by Special Agent Gist, has given entire satisfaction to all classes of citizens and to the military authorities. A petition is in circulation, which is being very generally signed, asking the President to bestow upon him the appointment of Postmaster. This has been done, we are informed, without any solicitation on the part of Mr. Gist.

Printed Wrappers.

Several of our post office friends have written us in behalf of the great convenience and utility of printed wrappers for letter packages, and in several instances specimens of those in use by them, have been sent us. We have before alluded to this great and yet simple improvement, and we are glad to find that the use of them is increasing. Newspaper and magazine publishers are also getting into the way of printing the names of subscribers on the hands or covering, much to the delight of Route Agents, postmasters and their clerks. It greatly facilitates and lightens the labor of assorting the mails, while it lessens, by one-half at least, the chances of packages taking the wrong direction, and thereby causing delay if not actual loss. Postmasters in places numbering a population of perhaps 2000 or upwards, and within convenient access to a printing office, would, we are sure, find it an economical plan, or if not so situated, it would pay to purchase one of the small presses at \$5 advertised in our paper by Mr. Zevely of Maryland, who is the contractor for furnishing the Department with letter stamps. It could also be used we suppose in many cases, for small circulars, labels, &c., if required. Printing instead of writing, would not prevent the wrappers for letter parcels being used a second or third time, as now between small offices.

We hope yet to see printed wrappers in general use by postmasters and publishers, at least for all places to which letter mails or other packages are regularly made up. And should the plan be extended in some way, to the address of official and private correspondence, our friends in the dead letter office would have a much easier time of it, and possibly some of them could be spared for higher positions. We like the process described by a former correspondent of printing upon sheets of post office wrapping paper, the names of all places to which letters are sent daily, gumming the backs of the entire sheets, and cutting off the slips at the time of making up the mails. Or they can be printed singly on each wrapper.

MR. EDITOR:—I frequently find among my mail matter, gathered at different post offices along the line of my route, transient newspapers without the proper two cent stamp on the wrapper, but in lieu thereof the post office stamp, "PAID." I have the best of reasons for supposing that these packages so sent are *transient* matter. It appears to me that here is a violation of a very wise and important rule, and the postmaster who thus steps beyond his duties commits a gross wrong. Were the name of the post office also stamped upon the wrapper, it would be easy for the postmasters to whose offices these packages go to have the matter inquired into, but it is seldom or never done. It has appeared to me, therefore, that the Route Agent, when such matter is bagged directly to him, should report these departures from duty, as he is the only person outside the post office from whence these packages come who can trace them to their source. I may be wrong; if so, please set me right. I have ever held to the doctrine that laws should be obeyed to the letter, so long as they are in force, and would gladly see every rule of the Department strictly followed out, or the offender punished.

ROUTE AGENT.
It is more than probable that, on investigation, the blame would often be traced to the negligence of a postmaster in allowing his supply of one and two cent stamps to become exhausted before ordering a fresh supply.

[**EO. MAIL.**]

"A young lady wishes to enquire, if in case she should change her name, she would have to create a new Bond to the Department, and whether her husband or herself would be postmaster after the ceremony."

The above comes from a young lady now holding a commission as postmaster. To her first question, we answer in the affirmative. We trust, however, that the execution of the matrimonial bond does not depend on any such contingency.

The second question is a much nicer one. If our fair interrogator prefers to continue her official relations, she would still retain the designation of "postmaster." Perhaps for the looks of the thing, however, it would be as well to give up the postal reins to her husband, provided she could get him in.

EO. U. S. MAIL.—Dear Sir: Will you please to express your opinion in regard to closing the post office on such days as Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Years? What hours of the day? also, what hours of the night has a postmaster a right to close the post office?

See Sec. 20, Chap. I. of the Standing Regulations of 1851. At offices where no mail arrives regularly on Sundays, the postmaster is not required to open his office at all. In the absence of any rules in regard to holidays, he is, of course, left to exercise his own judgment. On week days, he is to be governed by "the usual business hours of the place."

The Returned Letters.

How she strikes her grief to smother!
Tears fall on the snowy page;
To a daughter writes the mother,
Calls her home to cheer her age.
Weary then with looking—longing,
Weeks and weeks pass sadly by;
All the past to memory thronging—
Hoping on, but—no reply.
Till at last there comes a letter:
"The *her* own, she traces there—
Better she had died—far better—
"Gone away and not known where."

From her home across the ocean,
Blotched with repentant tears,
Writes the daughter her emotion—
How she turns to earlier years;
Prays that Heaven may bless her mother,
Tells her of her wedded joy,
How she left her for another—
Sends the picture of her boy,
Then she waits to be forgiven,
Till another year has fled;
Back her letter torn and riven,
Comes,—and on it written—"DEAD,"

FAITHFUL TO THE LAST.—On the breaking out of the rebellion, and at the time Louisiana seceded from the Union, Mr. RIDGELL was postmaster at New Orleans. The rebel leaders brought all sorts of appliances to bear upon him, to induce him to turn over to their bogus government the funds and postage stamps belonging to the United States. Finding that other means than arguments were about to be used, he placed this property, amounting to a large sum, entirely beyond the reach of the traitors, until New Orleans had been recaptured by our forces, soon after which an Agent, Maj. Scott, from our Post Office Department arrived and took charge of the office, when the said property was placed in his hands. Mr. Ridgell had, however, been obliged to abandon the postmastership at an early day, in consequence of his noble adherence to the Union cause.

He has recently visited Washington, and effected a settlement at the Department of his entire accounts, when it was found that he had overpaid the government to the amount of about one thousand dollars, which amount was promptly returned to him.

At the recent election in Louisiana, this same faithful ex-postmaster was elected Governor of that State.

POSTAGE ON CIRCULARS.—ATTEMPTS TO EVADE THE LAW.—Since the establishment of the increased rate of postage on Circulars (two cents for three or any less number), various reports have been made to us, by postmasters, of certain tricks which are resorted to for the purpose of avoiding the payment of the new rate. We hear that circulars are mailed in packages prepaid by stamps at the rate of two cents per four ounces, which is the proper charge for newspapers, pamphlets, &c., but which is altogether inadequate for circulars. Postmasters should be careful in examining suspicious packages of printed matter, when deposited for mailing or received for delivery, and frustrate such attempts by promptly charging double the unpaid amount, at circular rates. On a package of seventy-five circulars, weighing eight ounces, and prepaid four cents, the unpaid amount due is forty-four cents—consequently eighty-eight cents should be demanded and paid before delivery. If payment is refused, the package must be disposed of as indicated in Sec. 9 of the new law, and instructions thereto appended.

THE NEW SPEAKER.—The election of Hon. SCHUYLER COLVAX as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, is a high compliment to the public press throughout the country, that gentleman having been an editor and publisher of newspapers in Indiana ever since he became of age. He has been a Representative in Congress from that State for ten years, during four of which he has served as Chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. He has been emphatically a "working member," having earned the reputation of being one of the most faithful and industrious members that ever occupied a seat in Congress. His great parliamentary experience must amply qualify him for his new and very responsible position.

Letter Addresses.

This letter please send to Millersville School, To a pupil there known as Alfred S. Boole. A school that is famed through Lancaster County. For making fools wise for a very small hourly. In Penn's valiant State this same county you'll see, Where the people's defence was in running from Lee, Where greedy contractors most ainflyly reign, And love of their country is measured by gain.

[Here is a copy of an address on a letter, written by a venerable Hospital Chaplain, to his good wife in New Hampshire.]

"The sweetest words begin with H,
A Home, the abode of pure delight,
A Heart, that loves the truth and light,
The Hope of good beyond all thought,
Full Happiness, by Christ's blood bought,
What need we more, if these are given?
I also want my Harriet, dear,
Another H you see most clear."

"This letter will go to Simon U. Stockman, who will read it, holding it in one hand, and with the other prevent the fishermen from stealing the minnie, at the Outfit Store on
Duncan's Point, Gloucester, Mass."

Application for change in the site of a post office, or its name, must always be made to the First Assistant Postmaster General.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1864.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York. Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance and interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

Official.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

By the instructions under the new postal law UNPAID LETTERS are specified to be—

Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes.

Unpaid letters for foreign countries, on which prepayment is required by the regulations. Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.

Letters misdirected to places where there are no post offices.

A recent order of this Department adds to the above—

Unpaid letters directed to any Executive Department, or to any officer therein, and not franked according to law.

Only such letters as are herein described, are when deposited in any post office, to be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office: all others must be deposited at their destination, (or, if drop letters, delivered,) charged with double the amount of unpaid postage, according to section 76 of the act of March 3, 1863.

When unmailable letters are sent to this office, the specific reason therefor must be endorsed upon the envelope of each. Under the present law no letter can be regarded as "held for postage," hence the use of such stamp is improper.

These instructions will be strictly followed at all post offices.

A. N. ZEVELY,
Third Assistant P. M. General

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
FRANKING OFFICE.

The examination of Dead Letters discloses much carelessness on the part of Postmasters in post-marking letters, and also in cancelling postage stamps.

The latter clause of the Regulations of 1859, section 37, is repealed, and the use of the office rating or post-marking stamp as a cancelling instrument is positively prohibited, inasmuch as the post-mark, when impressed on the postage stamp, is usually indistinct, and the cancellation effected thereby is imperfect. The postage stamp must therefore be effectually cancelled with a separate instrument.

Special attention is also directed to the duty imposed upon Postmasters by Regulation 396, which is as follows:

"If the cancelling has been omitted on the mailing of the letter, packet, or parcel, or if the cancellation be incomplete, the Postmaster at the office of delivery will cancel the stamp in the manner directed, and forthwith report the delinquent Postmaster to the Postmaster General, as the law requires."

A. N. ZEVELY,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Official Communications to the Executive Departments.

Notwithstanding the notice given by the War Department to the officers under its control, of the provision of the existing postal law with respect to the franking of their official communications, large numbers of letters and packets are still posted at the various offices, the writers or senders of which omit to comply with the provision noted.

As it is the duty of the Post Office Department to enforce, as far as possible, a strict compliance with the requirements of the law of the 3d of March last, the Postmaster General has decided to instruct postmasters to retain at their respective offices, all unpaid and not franked letters posted thereat, which may be addressed to the War Department or to officers under its control, unless that Department shall prefer to pay on delivery the postage due on such communications from its subordinate. The latter course has been pursued by the Treasury Department for some time.

Postmaster General BLAIR, who had been confined to his house for several days by indisposition, has sufficiently recovered to be enabled to attend to official duties at the Department.

A Happy New Year to all our Friends and Patrons.

We sincerely trust that to those of them who are post office employees, the new year may be distinguished from the past, by its freedom from, at least, a portion of the very many official annoyances and trials that (post office) fish is heir to.

May they be delivered from tardy correspondents, who never seem to forgive themselves or their treacherous watch-men, if they happen to deposit a letter in the post office before this time for closing the mail.

From those troublesome customers who are eternally grumbling because the post office is not kept open at all hours of the day on Sundays and holidays, although they seldom receive any mail matter, but, nevertheless, want the privilege of personally examining the premises occasionally, (when they ought to be in church) in the hope that their M. G., to whose nomination and election they contributed so largely (?) may have sent them a Congressional document, or possibly a commission from the Department to take charge of the office themselves!

From the greatest tormenter of all, the unsuccessful competitor for the post office, who is perfectly satisfied that he was really the favorite and "first choice" of a large majority of the citizens, because they "signed" pretty freely, in order to save time, and get rid of his pressing importunities.

From various other classes of "sore heads" and "blowers," who, for the want of some more reasonable cause of fault finding, complain of the postmaster of a country town, because he hasn't got influence enough at head quarters to obtain, at least, a twice daily mail, in a "through bag," from the nearest city, and who think the postmaster and his clerks deserving of removal, because they adhere to the postal laws, and the instructions of the Department, and are faithful and independent enough to reprimand the free and easy ways of some "clever" predecessor, who had practiced upon the idea that every body had a right inside the office but himself!

From that thoughtless and much-to-be-dreaded class of unwelcome and profitless visitors—especially of the genus *crinoline*—who through the post office recesses and vestibules, when they well know that at least two members of the same family have been there before them since the arrival and assortment of the latest and only mails which are to arrive for the day—and from all, in fact, who make the post office a "scape goat" for all sorts of purposes but those that are legitimate, keeping honest callers away from the delivery windows, and throwing an unnecessary burden upon the postmaster and his over-tasked and poorly paid clerks.

From all undue curiosity respecting the correspondence of others—from an over crowded "complaint book," from all mistakes in opening decay letters instead of their own; and (at the close of the New Year, from all painful regrets over either official short-comings, or private duties neglected.

The Postmaster General's Report.

We had intended to give in our last a synopsis of the Report of the Postmaster General, but did not receive it in time. We now present some of the salient points of this most able State paper. The present unparalleled prosperity of the Post Office Department is mainly due to the efforts of Judge Blair, whose fitness for his head is exemplified in its successful administration. None of the co-ordinate branches of government were more disastrously affected by the rebellion than the Post-Office. The interruption of postal communication with the South and Southwest involved the business interests of the North in so much confusion that it required time and a master mind to bring shape and substance out of chaos. That this has been satisfactorily accomplished, the present Report clearly demonstrates.

By reference to the Report, it will be seen that the receipts fall short of the expenditures only \$150,000, and this too, in view of the fact that the outlay for the year has been necessarily larger than will probably be required during the current fiscal year. Taking the Report, therefore, as a basis upon which to predicate a calculation, we have no hesitation in saying that the Post Office Department will soon become self-sustaining, if not a source of large revenue to the Government.

The Report is also eminently satisfactory in other respects, as showing an increase in the efficiency of the mail service, both domestic and foreign, and contains valuable suggestions of improvements and reforms. We shall give further extracts in our next.

We observe that Congress is again calling for the causes of the delays and irregularities in the mail service, between the Capital and New York.

The project has also been revived in the Senate, of authorizing and constructing by government, a new and more direct route between the two cities, both for the better accommodation of the mails and for military purposes.

A SPECIAL AGENT IS LUCK!—N. G. Ordway, Esq., of New Hampshire, and for some years past a very successful Special Agent of the Post Office Department, has quietly slipped into an important office at Washington—that of Sergeant-at-Arms. The position is said to be a lucrative one.

It is stated that William S. Harnet, Esq., of Maine, has been appointed Special Agent in place of Mr. Ordway.

There are many complaints of failures and mistakes in regard to Registered letters. In view of the plain directions on this subject, in the old and new instructions, we do not see how errors can occur. There are certainly no excuses for them.

Important Convention.

We have been favored with a copy of the Milwaukee (Wis.) Sentinel, containing the proceedings of a Convention of Western Route Agents, which met at Chicago, Ill., on the 24th ult. It was attended by about fifty of the Route Agents running upon the most important railroad mail lines in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri and Wisconsin.

We learn from a private source, that the members constituted one of the most intelligent and respectable set of officials that were ever assembled for any purpose. The principal object of this meeting seems to have been to induce some action at Washington, by Congress or otherwise, by which a more equitable compensation may be secured for the arduous and important services of Route Agents.

The officers of the Convention were—President, C. W. Hunt, Michigan; Vice President, J. A. Raigh, Ohio; Secretary, H. O. Elliott, Wisconsin; Assistant Secretary, E. Clarkson, Illinois. A number of brief speeches were made, showing the insufficiency of the present salaries, in view of the great advance in price of all the necessities of life. In the course of the President's remarks, he said: "We claim the right to petition for the redress of wrongs or hardships which we can but jilly bear, and if, in respectfully asking for an increase of salary, it should not be granted, then, I suppose, we can take either of the other alternatives—go on wearing off our finger-nails in nerving mail-bags at our present low salaries, or leave the service." Another gentleman facetiously remarked: "I formerly wore a coat of the usual length, but have been obliged to have it curtailed, so as to bring it within my means, until it only reached a very moderate distance below the waist." Clothing had advanced full fifty per cent. since his appointment.

A series of suitable resolutions were passed, and among them several breathing a spirit of the most patriotic devotion to the Union cause, and complimentary to the official administration of Postmaster General Blair.

The following Memorial was also presented, by a committee appointed for that purpose, and unanimously adopted:

To the Honorable, the Postmaster General of the United States:

At a Convention of Mail Route Agents of the Post Office Department, convened on the 25th of November, 1863, in the United States Circuit Court Room, in the city of Chicago, Illinois, there were present representatives of mail routes from the States of Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. After due deliberation, it was resolved to memorialize the Honorable Postmaster General in regard to the present salaries of the Route Agents, which, under existing circumstances, they deem inadequate for the support of themselves and families.

We therefore would respectfully submit for your early and favorable consideration the following facts:

As subordinate officers of that branch of government that carries intelligence to the people, we are riveted to discharge our duty in a manner so as to attract credit on the positions we occupy, and honor upon ourselves.

Our duties as Route Agents being laborious, responsible, and requiring our whole attention, we are precluded from engaging in any other business whatever.

It is known to your Honor that the peculiar nature of our position subjects us to many personal risks, and dangers of life and limb.

The prices of all the necessities of life have advanced fully one hundred per cent., and being compelled, besides supporting our families at home, to defray our hotel bills at the end of our respective routes, the salary we are now receiving is insufficient for our reasonable support.

Notwithstanding we practice the most rigid economy in caring for ourselves and families, we find our present compensation insufficient for the purposes here stated.

We cannot help believing that the government, whose agents we are, intends to accord to us a reasonable compensation for services performed, thus enabling us, with a proper regard to the rules of frugality, to support our wives and children respectably, and to save them the fate of abject want, in case we are cut off or crippled by the ever-occurring accidents of railroad life.

Impelled by the necessities of the times, we notice that all classes of laboring men and women, over the length and breadth of the land, are now asking and receiving an increase of their wages, and nothing but real, stern necessity induces your Agents to make this appeal. Accompanying this Memorial, please find a schedule setting forth the prices of articles of prime necessity at this time, as compared with the prices of the same articles at the time we were appointed.

In view of the facts thus set forth, we confidently look to our worthy Postmaster General to procure for us, as soon as possible, either by a recommendation to Congress, or otherwise, an addition to our pay, leaving to his enlightened judgment to fix the amount to be added.

It is hardly necessary for us to add that we highly approve of the object of the above Convention, and of the entire justice of the application embraced in the foregoing Memorial.—Our remarks in a former number, upon a similar petition of the Eastern Route Agents, require no repetition at this time.

Congressional Postal Committees.

The following gentlemen compose the Senate "Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads":

Senators Collamer (Chairman), Dixon, Ramsey, Henderson, Bowden, Conners and Buckalov.

The House Committee is constituted as follows:

Hon. Messrs. Alley, of Mass. (Chairman); Norton, of Ill.; Harding, of Ky.; Donnelly, of Minn.; Blaine, of Me.; Brooks, of N. Y.; Cole, of Cal.; Grinnell, of Iowa; and Fink, of Ohio.

Senator JACOB COLLAMER, of Vermont, Chairman of the Senate Committee, was appointed Postmaster General in 1849, and held the office somewhat over a year. Hon. J. B. GRINNELL, of Iowa, a member of the House Committee, was formerly a Special Agent of the Department, resigning the office last year, when he was elected to Congress.

Articles for Soldiers.

EDITOR OF THE MAIL:—It is the season of the year when every one having sons or friends in the army is preparing to send them under-articles, drawers, mittens, stockings &c. &c. A great many postmasters are in the habit of rating such articles at *Transient Newspaper rates*—is this right? I know of several instances where persons wishing to mail such articles have gone from my office to a neighboring office and mailed them at the cheapest rates, giving the person to understand that all asked beyond the 2 cents for 4 ounces, was extortion.

Now what becomes of goods thus mailed? The public should be correctly informed, and not, through the ignorance of postmasters, be induced to insufficiently prepay these parcels thus subjecting them to the entire loss of what they do pay, and the packages to double letter postage rates to be paid by the receiver. I suppose that the consequence of such ignorance on the part of the mailing postmaster is making the soldier pay the penalty of official blunders. Is not that the case? What is my duty in regard to such packages (insufficiently paid as I claim,) coming to my office for distribution from a neighboring office in transit to their destination? Should I return them to the mailing office—rate them with the proper postage—or let them go along as they are?

I would like very much to hear from you on this subject, for if I am wrong in charging letter postage on this style of shipments, I am morally bound to refund to my outraged patrons, and come down upon me if I want friends or patronage hereafter, to the lowest journal rates.

Under the 25th section of the new law, when articles of wearing apparel are offered for mailing, letter postage should be prepared according to the weight of the package.

When such packages are admitted into the mail at a less rate, by carelessness, or ignorance on the part of the postmaster mailing, it is the duty of the postmaster at the first separating, or distributing office, to return the package to the office where mailed, for the payment of letter postage.

The following letter from the Third Assistant Postmaster General is in reply to an inquiry on this subject:—

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
DEAD LETTER OFFICE,
Washington Dec. 30, 1863.

SIR:—Packages received at the Dead Letter Office which contain miscellaneous articles for soldiers, such as mittens, shirts, socks, and other articles of under-clothing, are retained there about three months in await application therefor by the sender or by the person addressed. If still unclaimed, they are given to the hospitals in Washington, for the use of sick and wounded soldiers.

Respectfully yours,
A. N. ZEVELY,
Third Assistant P. M. General.

J. HOLBROOK, Esq., New York, N. Y.

WELL DESERVED.—On New Years Day, HENRY W. WHITING, Esq., who for several years past has very acceptably filled the position of Cashier of the New York Post Office, was presented by the Postmaster and clerks of that establishment with a substantial evidence of their regard, in the form of a \$500 U. S. bond, a silver tea service (the latter the gift of Hon. A. Wakeman, P. M., to Mrs. Whiting) and a complete set of table silver—in all of the value of over \$1,100.

The presentation was accompanied by a letter from the donors, expressive of their regard for him as a friend, and their appreciation of the courteous and able manner in which he has always performed his official duties. Gen. John A. Dix, formerly Postmaster of New York, who was also among the contributors, added a note in which he bore testimony to Mr. Whiting's zeal and fidelity during the General's administration of the office. We can truly say, that in our opinion such a compliment was never more worthily bestowed, whether considered as a recognition of the services of an efficient public officer or of those generous and amiable social qualities which constitute a gentleman.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL:—There is usually on the same train with the Route Agent an Express Messenger. Now suppose the Route Agent is aware that the Express man is constantly receiving letters from individuals at the different stations along the road, and carrying them (past a number of post offices) to the end of his route, and then depositing them in the post office to be sealed mailed to their destination, thus depriving the local postmaster of his rightful commission.

Again, supposing letters so carried were in government envelopes, would that alter the case at all, so long as the letters were to be finally mailed?

I am aware that letters in government envelopes may be sent outside of the mails to their destination, but does it follow that letters which are to be mailed at all, by the use of such envelopes, be properly carried by Express men away from the regular post office of the writer, as is often done for convenience, and often in consequence of a dislike which the writer may entertain towards his own postmaster?

If the Department has any authority in the matter, will you please inform us what our duty is in the premises?

ROUTE AGENT.

From what we know of the honorable character of the Express Companies generally, and their desire to comply with the postal laws, we can hardly believe that the alleged violations alluded to by our correspondent are correct to any considerable extent.

As to letters in government envelopes, they can be conveyed by anybody, or in any way, providing the writers comply with the rule by addressing them in ink, marking the date of writing, and seeing that they are of the proper denomination to cover the correct postage rates of the enclosures.

When Route Agents have any reasons for believing that the law is violated by Express men or others, it is their duty to report the facts to the First Assistant Postmaster General.

[ED. MAIL.]

PERSONAL.—The Washington papers announce the marriage of WILLIAM A. BAYAN, Esq., Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department, to Miss Julia J. Lyon, daughter of Hon. Lyman K. Lyon, of Lyon's Falls, N. Y. The Utica papers mention that the marriage ceremonies were of the most interesting character.

Mail Locks and Pouches.

We learn from the Department that there is at present unusual complaint respecting the scarcity of Mail Locks and Pouches, and the supply of the former, especially the brass locks—seems to be run out. Much inconvenience has been and is now felt, in consequence of this state of things, at the New York, Philadelphia, and Washington City offices. It is believed that this scarcity arises mainly from the carelessness of postmasters in not returning their surplus locks and bags to the depots as required by the regulations. To remedy the existing evil to some extent, and as promptly as possible, the attention of the Special Agents has been called to the subject by the Department.

All postmasters whose offices have not been made depositories for mail bags and locks, are ordered by the Inspection Office at Washington to return immediately to that office "all mail locks not actually needed for current operations, reporting the number sent, and to continue so forwarding all such, from time to time, never allowing any to accumulate and fall into disuse."

They are also requested and ordered to forward all surplus mail bags, whether in good condition or not, to the nearest mail-bag depository, advising the postmaster thereof of the number of each size of every kind so forwarded. A list of such depositories may be found on the third page of the Mail.

We are requested to say, further, that the above requirements must not be neglected.

Questions and Answers.

LETTERS BY MAIL CARREMS.—Do the Postal Laws (See Section 125 and 156 to 159 inclusive,) and Regulations (secs. 435, 437 and 438) prohibit mail contractors and carriers from receiving and carrying, for deposit in the next office, any letter, excepting it be prepaid by stamped envelope? No.

If a mail carrier brings to the next P. O., any letter which he has received on the road, prepaid by postage stamps, and deposits the same for mailing, is he subject to suit and penalty under the law? No.

A mail carrier may, as heretofore, receive way letters fully prepaid by postage stamps, when handed to him, at least one mile from a post office, to be deposited in the first post office at which he arrives; but no fee can be allowed for the collection of such letters, as under the old law: See Section 81 of new law.

EO. MAIL.—Will you please inform me, through the columns of the Mail, if, under the new law, a P. M. has the right to frank a letter to a newspaper publisher, to inform him that, by reason of the time of subscription expiring, papers are not taken from the office. If not encroaching too much upon space, if you will inform me, you will confer a favor upon a subscriber.

When a newspaper or magazine, regularly sent to a subscriber, has been refused by him, or not called for by him for a month, it is the duty of the postmaster to write a statement of the facts, and send it, under cover, to the postmaster where such publication is mailed, to be by him communicated to the publisher. The envelope addressed to the postmaster should be franked. See Sections 9, new law and regulations.

ED. U. S. MAIL.—SIR:—Please state in your paper what constitutes a circular, under the act of March 31, 1863, and the distinction, if any, between circulars and hand bills, in rate.

Under the head of Circulars, should be included all advertisements, printed on flexible paper, not exceeding the size of a letter sheet. Large hand bills or posters should be classed as miscellaneous printed matter, in regard to postage.

MR. HOLBROOK.—SIR.—Will you inform me if blank forms of oaths to accompany quarterly returns, are furnished postmasters, and if so, where to apply for them?

The blank form of oath to accompany quarterly returns, is furnished in No. 6. of the new regulations. Postmasters should write out such oath, to be subscribed before a justice of the peace or other magistrate authorized to administer the same.

ILLEGAL PRACTICES.—It is not a very uncommon practice in communities where an appointment of a postmaster is distasteful to a portion of the citizens, for them to refuse to deposit their letters in their local office, in fact going often to considerable expense and trouble in sending by private hands, or getting them into a distant post office, by employing regular messengers, and sometimes even those paid by the government to carry the mails. Places are even occasionally designated within sight of a post office where mail matter is collected and regularly forwarded to another office, in order to "spite" an unpopular postmaster. All such proceedings are wholly illegal, and each of the parties interested, including those who receive the letters &c., to be forwarded, are liable to a prosecution and heavy fines, results which will be pretty sure to follow a full report of the facts to the Appointment Office.

Whenever a really improper or unsafe appointment is made, the public may be sure that deception has been practiced upon the appointing power, and a bold and independent remonstrance, setting forth the grounds of dissatisfaction is always certain, if found to be true, to bring prompt relief.

Besides, such a course is much more decent and manly than the mean process of applying the pecuniary screws, and leaving the less pugnacious portion of the people interested, to put up with the grievance if it is a real one.

BUSINESS OF THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE.—The following paragraph occurs in one of the circulars from the Auditor's Office of the P. O. Department:

"It is entirely unnecessary for you to employ a person on your behalf to expedite the settlement of your accounts, as such settlement is always made in due order of business, and no official interference can affect the action of the Office. The same prompt attention is given to business when transmitted by letter, as if presented in person; and hence the employment of an agent to transact such business is not only unnecessary, but involves an actual loss to at least the amount paid such agent."

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. IV., No. 5.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1864.

WHOLE No. 41.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.

We conclude our extracts from the Report of the Postmaster General:

CANCELLATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.
During the past year indelible cancelling inks have been used at the principal post offices, and the employment of printing ink for cancellation—the latter being much more difficult to efface than ordinary writing ink—has been continued at the smaller offices.

It is not believed that the department has ever suffered any considerable loss from the use of washed or restored stamps, yet there has been a constant endeavor, either by the introduction of some effectual method of cancellation, or by a peculiar process in the manufacture of the stamps, to render impossible a second use thereof for the payment of postage. No improvement of this nature has yet been perfected, though much attention has been given to the subject, and many ingenious devices for this purpose invented. Instruments for cancellation, with cutting or abrading edges, have been submitted by various parties, and upon being thoroughly tested were found to be inherently defective, owing to their liability to injure, or to be injured by, the contents of letters or packets. These instruments, furthermore, speedily became dull or disarranged by ordinary use, requiring sharpening or adjusting.

After much thought, and a thorough consideration of the many instruments and devices which have been submitted or suggested to the department to attain the desired result, the conclusion has been reached that the only certain means of effectual cancellation is in the preparation of the stamps in such manner that, when once affixed to a letter, they cannot be removed, without involving their destruction, or by their being printed in colors sufficiently permanent to resist the action of air and light, but which would readily be effaced by any agent intended to remove the cancelling marks. Three varieties of postage stamps, alleged to possess one or the other of these qualities, have been submitted to the department, and their respective merits are under consideration.

THEFT OF STAMPS FROM POST OFFICES.

Additional legislation is also required in respect to post office thefts. The stealing of postage stamps from a post office is not made a felony under any existing statute. Some months since three persons were convicted in Indiana of the robbery of a post office in that State, and the stealing of letters and a considerable amount of postage stamps. The former not having been proved to contain "any article of value or evidence thereof," and there being no penal enactment against the stealing of letters, the parties were necessarily sentenced to punishment for one of the slightest offences against the postal laws—having been each fined five dollars, and imprisoned three months. I would suggest the establishment, by statute, of a suitable penalty for offences of this nature. The best mode, perhaps, of attaining this result, would be the enactment of a law making it a felony to steal from, or forcibly enter into any room or building which may, at the time of such stealing or entry, be used or occupied as a post office.

DEAD LETTERS.
The whole number of ordinary dead letters of every description received and examined during the year was 2,550,416, being 268,398 more than in the preceding year.

MONEY AND OTHER VALUABLE LETTERS.
The number of these letters which contained money was 18,527, and the value of their contents was \$77,861 31, showing an increase over the number of letters of this class received during the previous year of 8,052, or 76 per cent., and an increase in the amount of money enclosed of \$31,322 42, or 67 per cent.

Of these letters there were registered and mailed for delivery to their respective owners during the last fiscal year, 18,219, of which 15,048, containing \$63,627 72, were finally delivered. To bring about the latter result it was necessary to send out many of these letters a second time, and some of them, in consequence of the owner's change of residence, or for other cause, were sent out three or four times, in order to secure their restoration.

The number of dead letters covering deeds, bills of exchange, drafts, and other valuable papers, received, registered, and returned for delivery to the writers, was 8,332, and the aggregate nominal value of their contents was \$1,644,277 81, being a decrease in the number of this class of letters, as compared with the previous year, of 1,431, and in the value of the enclosures, of \$645,172 19. Of these letters 7,559 were delivered to the owners.

During the year 16,763 valuable letters or packages of a third class were received and registered. Of these 12,579 were sent out for delivery, 10,918 of which contained daguerrotypes or photographs, 784 articles of jewelry, and 897 miscellaneous articles. Out of the whole number sent from the dead letter office for delivery, 8,273 were restored to the writers or senders.

There has been a continued increase in the receipts of letters of the class under notice, the great majority of which contain daguerrotypes or card photographs, and of these a large proportion are sent by soldiers or their correspondents. The whole number of such dead letters exceeds by 86 per cent. the amount thereof received in the preceding year. It will be observed, that while there has been a very considerable increase in the quantity of dead letters containing money, and of those covering daguerrotypes and miscellaneous articles, the number of such as contain deeds, bills of exchange, drafts, &c., has sensibly diminished. The increase of the two former classes is doubtless owing, in a great degree, to the fact that the mails are very generally used by the large number of persons in the military service of the United States, and by their numerous correspondents, for the transmission of money, photographs, and similar articles of value, while, on the other hand, they have less occasion to forward by mail deeds, drafts, or negotiable paper, than other classes of the community. The nature of the military service, and the many accidents to which soldiers are liable, necessitates frequent changes of locality, which retard or prevent the delivery of their letters, and many of these are, in consequence, sent to the dead letter office. Upwards of 5,000 money letters, being nearly one-fourth of the

whole of that class of letters received during the year, were addressed to soldiers.

For the reasons above indicated, complaints of the loss of money letters sent by or directed to soldiers and their families have been numerous. In many instances such losses were directly traced to dishonest letter carriers in the military service, and therefore beyond the control of this department. Moreover, many letters are lost through carelessness and indifference on the part of some of the persons who distribute mail matter in our armies. The power to correct or to lessen this evil rests with commanding officers, who would do their subordinate a great service by selecting competent and reliable persons to superintend the reception, transmission, and delivery of mail matter, and holding them responsible for the faithful performance of these duties.

MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.
In this connection I beg leave to renew the recommendation made in my last annual report, that a postal money order system be established to facilitate the transmission of small sums of money through the mails, which I am confident would not only prove a great convenience to civilians and soldiers, but would almost entirely obviate the loss of money letters, the great majority of which enclose small remittances.

CAUSES OF NON-DELIVERY OF VALUABLE LETTERS.
Upon an examination of the reasons for the non-delivery of valuable letters, in the first instance, to the persons addressed, it is found that, in accordance with the past experience of this department, the failure of a letter to reach its destination is, in the vast majority of instances, the fault either of the writer or person addressed—such failure being more frequently caused by a change of residence of the latter.

In compliance with a request from the War Department, 8,822 dead letters and packets, containing soldiers' descriptive lists and certificates of discharge, have been transmitted to the Adjutant General, after being carefully registered in this department.

It appears from the foregoing statements that the whole number of valuable dead letters registered and sent out from the dead letter office during the past fiscal year was 42,613, being 17,292 more than during the previous year. In addition to the above, 55,044 letters, containing postage stamps, or other articles of less than one dollar in value, and which were not deemed of sufficient importance to require registration, have been returned to the writers or senders. Letters of this description, which are not susceptible of restoration, are destroyed, with their contents. The number of postage stamps destroyed in conformity with this practice, from July 1, 1862, to 30th June, 1863, was 48,748, and the aggregate value thereof was \$1,318.

ORDINARY DEAD LETTERS.
Under the authority given to the Postmaster General by the act approved January 21, 1862, 1,007,255 ordinary dead letters, not evidently worthless, were placed in new envelopes and returned to the offices where originally mailed, and the contents to the writers. Of this number 4,898 were sent to banks and insurance companies; 89,642 to business firms, and the remainder to individuals. 19,002 of these letters, which were directed to sick and wounded soldiers in hospitals, and failed to reach the persons addressed, were returned free of postage to the generally nearest relatives of the writers. The number of dead letters of the class under notice, written in foreign languages, was 35,861.

Of the whole number sent out for restoration to the writers, 287,211, being about 25 per cent. were again returned to the department. In the great majority of instances the reasons assigned to be delivered to the writers were, "not called for," "not known," or "not found." The proportion "refused" was comparatively small, not exceeding 12 per cent. Since the reduction in the rate of dead-letter postage from six to three cents, which took effect on the 1st of July last, this proportion has steadily decreased.

After deducting from the whole number of letters sent out, such as were returned a second time, and those sent free of postage, including hospital letters, &c., there remained 692,220 letters, on which dead-letter postage was collected at 6 cents each, yielding a gross revenue to the department of \$41,533 20, which exceeds by \$21,533 20 the aggregate compensation of the clerks employed in sending out these letters. At the present reduced rate of three cents, for a single return letter, there would still be a surplus of \$1,533 20, while it is confidently believed that a much larger number of return letters will hereafter be delivered to the writers, not only in consequence of the reduction of dead-letter postage, under the new postal law, but also of the more prompt restoration of such letters. To secure the latter result the department has instructed postmasters to forward to the dead-letter office, except in special cases, all letters remaining unclaimed one month after being advertised, instead of two months, as formerly.

ERROR OF U. S. MAIL.—Will you allow me to call your attention to a neglect by postmasters and publishers of Chapter 4th, Sec. 52 of P. O. regulations, which says, "Each package containing letters, mailed and post-billed direct, should be plainly directed on the outside, with the name of the office to which it is sent, and of the County and State in which such office is situated. Return letters, that not more than one-third of postmasters or publishers ever put any directions on the outside of a package but the name of post office and State. County is almost universally omitted. Can your influence be directed to have a reform.

A POSTMASTER.
This is a proper reminder as to an important rule of the Department, the too general neglect of which sends many letters and newspaper packages astray. The knowledge of the locality of counties, is often better than that of towns and villages, with some post masters and route agents, who, in the absence of a full direction, apply the process of hurriedly guessing at the course the packages ought to take. Thus publishers often grumble at the delay, or failure of their papers, when they have clearly caused it themselves, by only half addressing them. There should be a general and speedy reform on the part of all interested in this subject.

"Demurring" Clergymen.

Ea. U. S. MAIL:
When one clergyman sends to another clergyman a church paper, (or any other paper,) regularly, through the mails, without prepaying the postage, what is a poor lady postmistress to do, but ungallantly charge the recipient clergyman four cents on each paper or package, even though said clergyman strenuously demurs? Particularly when it is very evident such papers have been read previously to mailing.

Are clergymen exempt from postal laws? If so, do please make it known quickly, and save trouble to a

POSTMISTRESS.
P.S.—Please publish, and answer. I have had some trouble here in trying to do right for my country's finances!

ANSWER.—Any "clergyman" who would "demur" on account of simple obedience to a well known public law, ought never to have another "donation party," or a present of a turkey for his Thanksgiving dinner.

We have only to say to the fair postmistress, that we commend her official anxiety in behalf of her "country's finances," and advise her to poke the four cent rate at the domicile as often as she pokes his clerical proboscis into the delivery window for a transient, unpaid newspaper. If she knows at what office the paper is mailed, if regularly, she should notify the postmaster of this evident intent of one clergyman to evade the law, while the other grumbles and "demurs" at the legal consequences of his reverend brother's delinquency.—[Ed. Mail.]

WANT A CLERKSHIP.
Still another of the postal sternerhood wishes to know if postmistresses are ever promoted for official faithfulness, to clerkships in the Department at Washington, as are "men postmasters." "I once heard," she remarks, "a distinguished Cabinet official say, that ladies make the best postmasters, and I venture to ask if this would not hold good if promoted to clerkships?"

We answer that there are no ladies employed in the Post Office Department to our knowledge. Quite a number hold clerkships in the Treasury and War Departments, but never have been in post offices. We know of no "men postmasters" who have been promoted as suggested, from the ranks of faithful post office clerks, although there may be such cases. We regret that we cannot give our aspiring friend more encouragement in that direction.

Foreign Dead Letters.

Some time since the process to which domestic dead letters are subjected in the Dead-Letter Office, was described at length in the MAIL. The following remarks on foreign dead letters, are intended to be an appendix to the previous article.

The interchange of mail-matter between the United States of America and foreign countries, is regulated by treaties.

Such treaties exist between the United States on the one hand, and Great Britain, France, Prussia, Hamburg and Bremen, respectively, on the other. The interchange of correspondence between each of these nations and the United States is, therefore, direct; while between the latter and all other countries, it is effected through the agency of the powers above specified, with some one of which every nation not in immediate postal connection with the United States, has arrangements for the receipt and transmission of correspondence. By this means an interchange of mail-matter is established between the United States and all countries and settlements within the reach of civilized intercourse.

Many packets, however, forwarded by mail to other countries, as well as received in this, fail to reach their destination, in consequence of the numerous changes which occur in daily life, within the period of even one interchange of mail, such as death, removal of residence, change of name, &c., and of the very imperfect manner in which many addresses are written, as for instance: "To my brother John in North America," "Fred Hopkins, State of New York," &c., &c.

All mail-matter from foreign countries, which remains at any post office undelivered, is sent in due course to the Dead-Letter Office, where, after being held one month, (for reclamation,) it is assorted according to the respective countries in which the letters and packages originated.

They are again sub-divided into paid and unpaid, and the latter classified according to the rates of postage charged on them, the mode of their conveyance, &c., &c., and the whole are returned unopened, to the countries from which they were originally despatched.

The number of letters thus returned to European and other countries, is about 175,000 a year, a number which promises increase, rather than reduction.

HON. EDWARD EVERETT, in one of his able articles, thus alludes to the importance of our Postal System:

"It scarce admits a question that the province of the Post Office in reference to the moral, the political, the social and domestic interests and relations of the country, is decidedly more important than its immediate connection with commerce, important as that is. In fact, when I contemplate the extent to which the moral sentiments, the intelligence, the affections of so many millions of people, sealed up by a sacred charm within the cover of a letter, daily circulate through a country, I am compelled to regard the Post Office, next to Christianity, as the right arm of our modern civilization."

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS."—Just before the Rebellion "broke out" we received the following, among other similar letters, from Southern postmasters:

LOWMEDE COUNTY, Ala., Oct. 30, 1860.

MR. HOLBROOK:
Dear Sir.—Enclosed please find \$1, for which send "U. S. Mail" for one year, upon the following conditions, to wit:

Firstly—Should our glorious Union be dissolved immediately after the election, you must return me the money.
Secondly—If it should last three months, and three months only, return me 75 cents.
Thirdly—Should it last six months only, return me 80 cents.
Fourthly—Should it last but nine months, return me a quarter.

Fifthly—Should it continue a year, keep all. I hope I may have the pleasure of subscribing for a second year. Yours, &c., E. W. T., P. M.

We shall endeavor to carry out the above proposition to the letter. The "hope" expressed at the close, discovers our friend's attachment to the Union, and we feel confident that we have one subscriber, at least, with which to begin the second volume of the MAIL.—[Ed. Mail.]

We regret most sincerely that soon after the receipt of the letter, there was a "great gulf fixed" between our correspondent and ourselves, effectually defeating the then desires and hopes of both of us.

Like many others, we thought that the rebellion might amount to just about "a quarter," but we notice by this Report of Hon. Secretary CHASE, and that of Mr. Memminger, that it has already cost a trifle more.

How the case stands now, and whether our friend of 1860 has, as this, exchanged the "U. S. MAIL" for a "C. S." coat of mail, and has been fighting against what, at the date of his letter, he so justly termed "our glorious Union," we have no means of ascertaining, but as soon as the "Yankees" get possession of his town and post office, we shall feel bound to perform our part of the unfinished contract, by sending the paper to "E. W. T." if found to be alive and loyal, or, if not, to his successor, whoever he may be.

A DOG MAIL TRAIN.—The St. Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer publishes the following extract of a letter from Pemba, showing how the mail is carried from that point to Crow Wing:

"I should have written to you four days ago, but the mail had to lie over one trip, on account of the lameness of one of the carrier dogs. You will probably think it strange that the Great United States mail should be delayed several days from such a cause, but nevertheless it was. The mail is carried from here to Crow Wing, a distance of three hundred and fifty miles, by dog trains, and if one set of dogs get foot sore when their turn comes, the mail has to lie over. Tomorrow they say the dogs will be right, and the mail will go forward. I saw the first dog mail train leave here on last mail day. It consisted of three maddling sized dogs; they looked more like three wolves than dogs. They had regular harness, very fancifully ornamented, and buckskin saddles, gorgeously worked with heads. The dogs are driven in tandem style. They go for forty to fifty miles a day, the half-breed driver trotting behind most of the way."

SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—It is the practice in the British army, throughout the world, for soldiers to frank their own letters, by merely putting on the corner of the envelope "Soldier's Letter." This is respected by all the British post offices and mails throughout the world as a free frank. By every foreign mail letters are received from the East Indies and elsewhere, through the Boston post office, with this frank. In view of the sacrifices made by our volunteers and soldiers, and the small pay received, we suggest that some provision be made by Congress for carrying their letters free of postage.—[Exchange Paper.]

Letter Addresses.
[We continue to receive from postmasters, copies of odd subscriptions on letters passing through their offices. There must be a great many such, however, of which matter-of-fact postoffice P. M.'s take no notes, and which are thus permitted to waste their sweetness on the solitary atmosphere of a mail pouch. We beg them not to allow such gems to be thus carelessly lost to the outside world—especially to the readers of the MAIL.]

Bear ye kindly mails and masters,
Free from hindrance and disasters—
This goodly hodge of love and fun
To Miss Sarah Huntington.

Bear it on its mission lucky,
Straight to the borders of Kentucky,
And in the town of Lexington
Pray let it rest till school is done.

Please pass this letter down to Phelps,
Where those that are wealthy this poor man helps.
By the news I contain he'll nearly be killed,
Please speedily hand it to Peter M. Field,
Ontario County, N. Y.

Waterbury
This letter is for element 'od it lives
to edmond jordan house in waterbury Con
necticut State America this letter to be
carried directly to element 'od it lives
to edmond jordan house in waterbury Co
nnecticut State America
All the postags is paid on this letter

Mr. McKibbin
18th St Southside; a few doors E of 6th Ave
3d Story—(crooked outside stairs
New York City.

This letter is for William Ball,
Now a student at old Yale;
Who got the mitten from Miss Raven,
Just before starting for New Haven,
Conn.

At Barrington, Spa. in the County of Lake, [take.
The lives Miss Nell Newcomb—don't make a mis
take carried directly to element 'od it lives
The people are well but the whole State is ill.

Comendatory.

We insert the following extracts from letters received from postmasters, on business connected with the Mail and Post Office Assistant. They have been selected from a large number of similar commendations. We trust we neither give offence to our official friends by the liberty thus taken with their communications, nor subject ourselves to the charge of editorial egotism, by publishing these flattering notices in our own columns. They were, of course, wholly unsolicited. Our object is to furnish those of our post office friends, who do not take our paper, evidence of the estimation in which it is held by those who are among its patrons. Also to place before the officers of our Department at Washington, further and more tangible proof that the Mail has not been established in vein, as an humble auxiliary in procuring a correct and faithful execution of the postal laws, and the instructions thereon—

"If there is any postmaster in this State, or elsewhere, who is not in receipt of the Mail, we advise him by all means to order it at once, for he will find it quite entertaining, and very convenient and valuable for reference. Its postage tables, especially those relating to foreign correspondence, which tables are the only ones now authorized by the Post Office Department, it seems to us, are indispensable in post office, small as well as large."—P. M., Albany, N. Y.

"I would rather pay five times the present subscription price, than do without your valuable paper. It not only contains much interesting reading matter, but is particularly valuable to every postmaster for the official information it gives, enabling him to do business correctly with other offices, thus saving them a vast amount of trouble and vexation, and it is also a good preventive for the severe reprimands that careless or ignorant postmasters are so apt to get from the Department. Please accept my testimony to its value."—Fall River, Mass.

"It is with much pleasure that I send you the above subscription, and hope that every P. M. in the State will become a subscriber to your paper. It saves postmasters and clerks a large amount of time in corrections, correspondence, &c."—San Francisco, Cal.

"I hope you will receive the money enclosed, for I can't do without the Mail."—Ithaca, N. Y.

"We have learned to think that we cannot well get along without your excellent sheets."—St. Paul, Minn.

"You monthly I find of great assistance to me, and would not be without it for five times the amount of subscription."—Woburn, Mass.

"I think I could not get along without it. The table showing the amount of postage to foreign countries is alone worth the price."—Webster, Mass.

"By forwarding the paper another year you will confer a great favor, for it is an invaluable aid to us."—Lees, Mass.

"Please place to my credit the enclosed amount, and send on the Mail—too valuable to do without."—Saltburg, Pa.

"I took pleasure in acknowledging the benefits I have received from the Mail, and in fact I don't know how any one connected with the postal service could well dispense with it."—Santa Cruz, Cal.

"I wish you much success in your labors, for I deem your paper an invaluable assistant to the fraternity, in the discharge of their duties."—Belvidere, Illinois.

"No postmaster can afford to do without the U. S. Mail, and it would be an actual benefit to the P. O. Department if all postmasters were required, by law, to take it. This may be 'radical,' but it is true."—Bellevue Falls, Va.

"The Mail is indispensable in a post office, and at the price you furnish it is, *ridiculously* cheap. It is worth five times the money to any postmaster who wishes to do his duty to the Department and the public."—Whiteaker, Wis.

"Your paper is of great value to us, both for instruction and amusement."—Wilson, Conn.

"We find we cannot get along without the Mail."—Weston, W. Virginia.

"We have taken your paper two years and cannot afford to dispense with it, or miss a number."—Warren, Mass.

"I have taken your paper three years, and having derived so much benefit from it in the past, I cannot possibly do without it in the future, as long as least as I have anything to do with post office business."—Pomfret, Conn.

"Send me the Mail another year, commencing with the Jan. number. I find it impossible to get along without its friendly instruction."—Sharon Centre, Ohio.

"I consider the Mail a very valuable paper for all persons engaged in the employ of the P. O. Department."—Davenport, Iowa.

"I would not be without it for many times the price of subscription, although I have been somewhat longer than three times ten years among the mail hags, &c., since Aug., 1831."—New Bedford, Mass.

"I find the U. S. Mail an invaluable assistant, and will not be without it either in or out of the post office."—Denver City, Colorado.

"I recommend postmasters to subscribe for your excellent monthly, that they, like myself, may find it a paying institution."—Racine, Wis.

"It is just what every postmaster ought to have, who does not choose to grope his way in postal darkness."—Egira, Ill.

"The Post Office Assistant is the right thing in the right place, and I believe may be immensely useful."—Fitchburg, Mass.

"I have not yet heard from the October number. Will you oblige me by giving this your early attention, and if you want more money say so, for I cannot well do without the paper."—Norwalk, Conn.

"I have received your valuable paper regularly for the last year, and would hardly know how to dispense with it. With the postage laws before me, and the benefit of your paper to explain, I still make mistakes, and I presume I am not an exception. A copy of it should be in the hands of every P. M., as all are interested in its contents."—Diamond Springs, Cal.

"It is an invaluable assistant, and we can no more be without it than the mail key."—Waldoboro, Me.

"Wishing you every success in the good work in which you are engaged, I do not let an opportunity slip of pointing out to P. M.'s the necessity of taking your excellent paper. I cannot myself see how they can get along without it."—P. M., Howard, Wis.

"Here is your dollar, for another year. I could not do without the paper."—So. Norwalk, Conn.

"I consider the Mail cheap to me at \$1.00 a year. With hopes for its success, I remain yours."—North Bloomfield, Ohio.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1864.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I receive the U. S. MAIL, and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
T. J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in raising foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

[OFFICIAL.]

Shipping to Soldiers by Mail.

AN ACT to amend the law prescribing the articles to be admitted into the mails of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That articles of clothing, being manufactured of wool, cotton or linen, and comprised in a package not exceeding two pounds in weight, addressed to any non-commissioned officer or private, serving in the armies of the United States, may be transmitted in the mails of the United States at the rate of eight cents to be in all cases prepaid, for every four ounces, or any fraction thereof, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Approved January 22d, 1864.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
January 25th, 1864.

The foregoing law is published for the information of the public, and especially for the guidance of Postmasters, and is thought to be so full and plain that no one can mistake its meaning. Postmasters will, however, bear in mind that packages of clothing entitled to pass in the mails—four ounces for eight cents—must be manufactured from wool, cotton or linen, and not exceeding two pounds in weight, and must be addressed to a non-commissioned officer or private, serving in the armies of the United States. Consequently, a package addressed to a commissioned officer, or composed of other materials than as above specified, such as boots, shoes, &c., if sent by mail, must be prepaid by stamps at letter rates, viz.: three cents for every half ounce or fraction thereof.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster General.

Editors of newspapers throughout the United States will doubtless confer a favor on the soldiers in the field, as well as their friends at home, by giving publicity to the above.

Notwithstanding our bills for the current year in advance, were sent to our subscribers in the December number, we have thus far received rather meagre returns; most of them were due in October last. Whether a bill has been received or not, remittances are expected to be made by all who have not paid us beyond the present number (41.) of the MAIL. When bills are received, and returned to the publishers with the money, they will in all cases be receipted, and enclosed in the next month's paper.

A few of our subscribers claim that there are errors in the bills sent them for the 4th volume, and that remittances mailed to us during the last year cannot have been credited. &c. That the sums were remitted as claimed, we, of course, cannot question, although in some instances, what at first seemed like certainty, on the part of the claimants, has been changed into an intent to remit, or to the equally unsafe assurance that it has always been their habit to pay for papers in advance, &c.

We can only say that credits have been given with great care, and the original orders for the Mail, and letters enclosing money, carefully filed. It does not follow that because a remittance was really sent, it was received, our letters being subject to the same contingencies as are those of other parties. When a postmaster assures us that he has any memorandum, or other evidence besides a mere recollection, we always give credit of course.

A STUPID BLENDER.—The New York Herald of Dec. 16, contained a statement that "Mr. James Garrett, an employee of the post office," had been arrested, and held to bail in \$5,000, on a charge of embezzling letters—which is entirely untrue. Mr. Gayler is connected with the Special Agent's Department, and on the 15th ult. caused the arrest of a letter-carrier on the above charge, and it was he that was held to bail in the amount stated, and not Mr. G. The Herald corrected the error the next day; but reporters for the press should, if we may so to be a little more careful how they confuse the facts of a criminal case in this promiscuous manner.

Mailing Clothing to Soldiers.

It will be seen by reference to the law which has just been enacted, and a copy of which, with the accompanying instructions from the P. M. General, will be found in the first column of this page, that articles of clothing manufactured of wool, cotton or linen, and in packages not exceeding two pounds in weight, may now be mailed to soldiers at the rate of eight cents for every four ounces or fraction thereof. The former charge on such articles was three cents per half ounce, although many persons, under the erroneous impression that such articles could be sent at priated matter rates, have been in the habit of depositing them in post offices with only two cents per four ounces prepaid thereon. Postmasters should be at some pains to see that the community obtain a correct understanding of the present law, and be careful to comply strictly with its provisions. Editors and publishers will also, we doubt not, be glad to give the greatest possible publicity to the matter, and we trust that the comfort and convenience of our soldiers will be greatly enhanced by the operation of this beneficial law.

The question comes from two or three quarters, whether a regular newspaper can be taken out of the office, and afterwards re-mailed at quarterly rates. We think we have more than once answered this trifling question, in the negative of course, but a repetition now may "help out" some of our new subscribers. Only regular publishers, and news-dealers, are entitled to pay by the quarterly or yearly rates.

When a regular subscriber changes his residence, it is his duty to notify the publisher, and not that of the postmaster; but the latter must notify the postmaster, at the new locality, that the postage has been paid, and to what time.

PUTTING IT IN "BLACK AND WHITE."—Senator Sumner has offered a resolution "to abolish the color qualification in conveying the mails." A similar resolution was offered in the House at the last session, and rejected. Mr. Colfax, then chairman of the P. O. Committee, objecting, on the ground that in some of the States, under existing laws, a colored person could not testify in case the mails were robbed while in his custody, and that, therefore, the proposed measure would be an unsafe one for the public interest. The State disqualification as to colored witnesses still exists, if we mistake not, in several of the loyal States, and, consequently, the same very serious objection holds good. It would, therefore seem—if we are to have colored mail carriers—that local legislation ought to take the lead.

The prohibition referred to is contained in a section of the postal Act of 1835.

ANOTHER POST OFFICE ROBBERY.—The post office at Middletown, Middlesex County, Conn., was entered on Monday night, Jan. 4, 1864, by cutting a hole through, and raising a bar which secured a door in the rear of the building. A large number of letters were mutilated and left behind—but upon examination it was ascertained that the scoundrels were but illy repaid for their labors. This, however was not their fault, but their misfortune.

In a former number of our paper we called the attention of postmasters to the importance of guarding against occurrences of this kind—and we again urge them to see to it. In many cases that we have investigated we have found the most inexcusable carelessness in regard to the security of post offices in large places, which, with due deference, we submit, is not at all flattering to the judgment or vigilance of the officials in charge of them.

In every instance where watchmen are not employed, a clerk should sleep in the office, and, for additional safety, a good dog should be kept on the premises. As a further means of decreasing trouble, in the event of a disaster, postmasters should inculcate the necessity of everybody taking their letters out over night where such a thing is possible.

DANGEROUS MAIL MATTER.—Recently, among the dead letters received at the Department, one was found containing Gun cotton—which is well known to be a most inflammable and dangerous article, and which should not, therefore, under any circumstances, be sent by mail.

Medicinal and chemical preparations, especially when put up in glass, or other fragile material, must also be carefully excluded from the mails, as well as all wooden or metallic articles, which are liable, from their weight, size or shape, to damage letters, papers, and other legitimate mail-matter.

HOTEL LETTERS.—The attention of city postmasters is called to the necessity of arranging with hotels for the regular return to the post office, of all letters remaining unclaimed one month, except in cases where there are good reasons for believing that they may be delivered by longer retaining them.

Such letters, according to the standing regulations, are to be sent from the post office to the Dead-Letter Office, without having been advertised.

HARTFORD P. O.—The number of letters deposited in the Hartford (Conn.) post office during the quarter ending Dec. 31st, is 239,475—being at the rate of nearly a million a year. The number received for distribution, and remailed, is about 200,000. This immense correspondence (as stated in the first item), as originating in Hartford, is indicative of the growing prosperity and social interests of that beautiful and flourishing city.

The office has never been under better or more satisfactory management than at the present time.

MA. ERRORS.—I wish to inquire if communications for publication in newspapers, &c., are to be mailed at the reduced rates—that is, the same as book manuscripts are now written.

ANSWER.—Such communications are to be rated at letter postage.

Mutilated Postal Currency.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL:

Dear Sir,—Myself a thoroughly loyal man, and a member of the L. L., I cannot help seeing things in the present administration of affairs, which I think might be better managed. While favoring the adoption of a national paper currency, in place of our local bank circulation, for sums of one dollar and upwards, I consider our present fractional currency as one of the evils incident to a state of war—even though that war be a war of freedom against oppression—it has its evils, and our only resource is to make the best of them. Yet government, or at least government officials, are making this fractional currency a greater burden than it need be. For instance; a ten cent currency is accidentally torn; if I take it to our post office it is refused, no matter how innocently sent; and may have been caused. Now I would suggest that orders be issued—not necessarily publicly, which might cause such a rush as to embarrass the regular labor of the larger offices—to the post office in every town where there is no "Designated U. S. Depository" to receive all genuine U. S. fractional currency which has not been evidently maliciously defaced, in payment of all dues to the office. That all such mutilated or defaced currency be not paid out, but returned to Washington to be destroyed.

I shall hope to see your influence used for the adoption of the above, or some other plan for the retirement of mutilated fractional currency.

The plan suggested above for the redemption of mutilated "Postal Currency" in small sums, we think an important and practicable one; the best, and in fact, about the only one we have seen. There are thousands of persons, many of whom can ill afford the loss, who have in their possession one or more of these notes, which, to them, are worthless, from being badly soiled or mutilated. These they must lose unless some way of relief is provided.

Many of these parties reside in obscure localities, where there are no facilities for sending them to any "designated U. S. Depository," and even there they are not exchangeable in sums of "less than five dollars." Postmasters, except in the larger cities, refuse them for similar reasons, and the holders are thus left to pocket their loss.

Although these notes are designated as "Postal Currency," they were issued by the Treasury Department, under the law authorizing them, and, consequently, the P. M. General has no power or authority in the matter whatever. When the regular postage stamps were so largely used as currency, that officer having the power, generously came to the relief of the people, and ordered the redemption of all stamps unfit for use, at various convenient localities throughout the country; thus, in thousands of instances, saving from actual loss the scanty earnings of the poor man, as well as the hundreds and thousands of the wealthy trader, and the rich corporation stockholder. He would, we have no doubt, be glad to see the post offices again used for a similar purpose, were the proper authority conferred upon him. We are not aware that Secretary Chase is authorized beyond what is indicated on the endorsement on these "postal currency" notes.

The British authorities, in the management of their postal system, have always proceeded upon the principle of making it available for the convenience and varied interests of the people throughout the kingdom, to its utmost capacity. The money order, savings bank, and other systems, have all being engrafted upon the institution, without appearing to conflict with the more legitimate objects of the post office, which, in fact, is the only channel through which every community and all classes can be directly reached. It is a noble feature of a grand system.

We are not sure that all these collateral uses of the post office are applicable to our vast territory, but that some of them are there can be no doubt, and we are gratified to know that this belief is shared in by the present head, and other high officers of our Postal Department. If practicable we have no doubt they will come to the relief of the public in the way proposed by our worthy correspondent.—[ED. MAIL.]

"Drops," and Newspapers.

MR. EDITOR:

DEAR SIR.—Permit me to inquire through the Mail:

1st.—If a neighbor, or townsman, hands me a sealed letter, and requests me as a friend, not as P. M., to hand the letter, according to direction, to some person within the delivery of my office, without the drop postage being paid, would it be allowable for me to comply with his request? A bundle of newspapers to this office, which are published in this county, and request me to distribute them among those who will read them, &c. could I do so without collecting postage? With the light I now have, I have retained such packages in the office, not being sent to "actual subscribers."

ANSWER.—If a postmaster can receive and deliver one drop letter without charge of postage, he can a thousand, and the principle once settled, he would be apt to take quite too many "drops" for the interest of the Department. If his neighbor, or townsman, wants to be accommodated by a personal delivery, why not pay the paltry sum of two cents postage, and then his "friend," the postmaster, could legally deliver it.

2d.—As to the delivery of weekly newspapers published in the county, and given him to distribute promiscuously, his position is right. He can so deliver the papers, but the postage thereon must be prepaid by stamps, at 2 cents per copy.

This question as to the precise point at which official responsibilities cease, on the part of a postmaster, is a very nice, and sometimes a very perplexing one, and when it has been raised, as in this case, their decisions have seldom agreed with those of the Department. We recollect the case of a postmaster out West, who had been complained of at head quarters, for having been intoxicated on several occasions. When furnished as usual with a copy of the complaint, his defence was, that although he frankly acknowledged the charge, yet he should not admit that he had ever been officially drunk.

The postage in Mexico is something enormous. A French officer writes from there, stating that the charge for a letter from Puebla to a place only fifty hours off, is twynty-seven francs.

Mulling Registered Letters.

It is exceedingly annoying to those whose duty it is to investigate the occasional reports of the loss of registered letters, to receive, on making inquiries at the mailing office, such a reply as the following:

"The letter, with the registered bill and post-bill, was enclosed in an envelope, addressed to the P. M. at New York, and regularly mailed in the package to Philadelphia D. P. O."

Now, as it is made the duty, by law, of the P. M. at a Distributing Post office to treat all registered letters arriving at his office for distribution in the same manner as though they were originally mailed at his office, it must be evident to any person that in order to enable him to do so the package containing them must be addressed to his office, and not to that of final destination—and that both the "original" and "return" bills must also be sent to him. By the neglect of this plain duty, Special Agents, in case of loss, are left without the means (which the registry system was expressly intended to provide) of tracing a registered package to the hands of the person who opens the bundle in which it is contained.

A person who posts and pays the registration fee on a letter is entitled to all the protection which registration is intended to furnish to his correspondence; and if through the neglect or carelessness of a postmaster he is deprived of any part of that protection, we are by no means sure that such heedlessness should not be punished by making the offender legally responsible for any pecuniary loss resulting therefrom.

Mail Locks and Pouches.

All postmasters whose offices have not been made depositories for mail bags and locks, are ordered by the Inspection Office at Washington to return immediately to that office "all mail locks not actually needed for current operations, reporting the number sent, and to continue so forwarding all such from time to time, never allowing any to accumulate and fall into disuse."

They are also requested and ordered to forward all surplus mail bags, whether in good condition or not, to the nearest mail-bag depository, advising the postmaster thereof of the number of each size of every kind so forwarded.

Many postmasters, in small offices even, retain mail bags in their offices until there are 10, 15 or 20 or more (particularly newspaper bags). They are either ignorant of the law, or careless and inattentive to the duties of their office, and thus cause the service great inconvenience.

Many newspaper sacks are detained at offices where U. S. Senators and other Members of Congress reside. The special attention of postmasters at such offices should be directed to the return of those bags sent with Public Documents.

Section 136 makes no distinction as to who detain newspaper sacks. Members of Congress are as liable to the penalties of the law as any one, and should be more willing to comply with its requirements, from the fact that they enacted it themselves.

[COMMUNICATED.]

It would be a great convenience to "newspaper clerks" at quarter days, if the European custom of printing the name of the newspaper enclosed upon their "single wrappers," should be adopted by the newspaper publishers of this country. Under the old postage law this could not be done without subjecting the entire package to letter postage. This difficulty is now removed, by the clause of the new law, which allows a card to be printed on a wrapper or envelope, without subjecting it to extra postage. Were this generally done, it would obviate the necessity now existing, of tearing open wrappers to ascertain what paper is enclosed, upon which the charge is to be made, would save the time and patience of the clerk, and not infrequently the grumbling of the subscriber, at the mutilated condition in which his paper reaches him. The experiment would not be costly, and is well worth the trial of newspaper publishers. H.

Some improvements will be noticed in the appearance of the present number of the MAIL. We shall continue to accumulate information generally applicable to the service, under appropriate heads—adding thereto, and making alterations, rendered necessary by changes in the laws—according to the instructions of the Department. This will prevent, in a measure, the repetition of inquiries on the same subjects, if it does not generally render them unnecessary.

Our limited space will compel us to condense this information as much as possible, consistently with a proper degree of clearness as to what is required under the various heads.

CORRECTION.—In announcing the name of the gentleman appointed in the place of Special Agent Ordway, resigned, our printer read the name as "Haroot." It should have been WILLIAM H. HANET.

OBITUARY.—Mr. James Scott, Jr., for about 15 years connected with the New York post office, as Delivery Clerk, died on the 7th ult. Mr. Scott was a faithful and efficient clerk, and much respected by all his associates. His disease was consumption, contracted in consequence of exposure to cold in the performance of his duties.

SAN FRANCISCO P. O.—R. O. Perkins, Esq., has been appointed postmaster at San Francisco, Cal., in place of the late P. M. G. M. Parker, Esq. We are not acquainted with the reasons for the removal of the latter gentleman, but Washington correspondents report that complaints had been made against him for "mismanagement of the business of the post office."

The Postmaster General has invited bids to reduce the running time four days from the Atlantic to the Pacific, for the conveyance of the letter mail only, as well as the entire mail.

We will again state that postage cannot be collected in advance, on regular newspapers to foreign countries, excepting the British North American Provinces.

One Cent Stamps and Envelopes.

Many postmasters have yet remaining in their hands stamped envelopes, and newspaper wrappers of the one cent denomination. The law of March 3d, 1863, having abolished the one cent rate of postage, postmasters are at a loss how to dispose of these wrappers and envelopes. The Department desires to have them used, and has, in every case, given instructions to that effect. This can be done by the addition of stamps to pay the required postage. Postmasters interested will please take a note of this item, and order one cent stamps from the Department, being careful to state the number of one cent wrappers and envelopes on hand.

Postmasters returning stamps or stamped envelopes to the Department, should invariably register the package, address the same to the 3d Assistant P. M. General, and, in a special letter, state the number of each denomination, and the aggregate value of the same.

We receive many letters of inquiry without a postage stamp enclosed, with which to prepay the answer, and we are left to choose between the alternatives of seeming unwarrantably to neglect our correspondents, or of providing the stamps ourselves, which, in the aggregate, constitutes quite too large an item. We refer to a class of applications which relate to points either too trivial to require answers in the MAIL, or which would be of but little or no importance to our readers generally. And yet we will always reply to such even, if we receive a return stamp.

Many questions are asked, when the information sought has been several times, and quite recently given, or which is to be found in the columns of "standing matter."

HANDBILLS OR "POSTERS," are to be rated as miscellaneous matter—two cents for each four ounces or fraction thereof, if sent to one address in any one package.

NAMES ON NEWSPAPERS, &c.—When a person receives a newspaper, or other printed matter, through the mail, upon which his name is written, he cannot remit it to another party, excepting at letter postage, without effectually removing the first address—whether written or printed—upon the inside or upon the wrapper.

Copies of the present number of the MAIL, will be sent to some postmasters who are not subscribers. Should they desire to become permanent patrons, they will please send their orders to the publisher of the U. S. MAIL, New York City.

Inquiries received from postmasters and others, on postal subjects, are so numerous that we are enabled to answer only a portion of them in each number, but we will endeavor not to overlook any that are important. The information sought, in some cases, could have been found by a reference to portions of the "standing matter" in our columns.

Delays in answering may sometimes occur, as our custom is, when they cannot safely be replied to without to consult the proper officers of the Department at Washington.

The requirements of the new law greatly enhance the obligation of postmasters to see that their supply of postage stamps does not become exhausted. Small offices should also more generally provide themselves with the government stamped envelopes. We hear many complaints of a neglect of this duty; and we have no doubt that the fact that such envelopes cannot readily be obtained, is often used to ease the consciences of those who violate the laws, by sending letters out of the mails.

Postmasters and their assistants, who suffer and complain of so much vexation and loss of time, in consequence of illegible writing, should be, it would seem, the last persons to fall into the same inexcusable error themselves. And yet some of the very worst specimens of cigraphy are traceable to those sources, in official letters and in the addresses upon letter packages made up by them. Route Agents complain bitterly of this, as they are compelled frequently to open the packages and get at the proper address the best way they can.

Violations of the postal laws, by express companies or others, are to be reported to the Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department. Also all deceptions upon the mails, real or supposed losses of valuable letters, and the forgery or illegal use of postage stamps. We allude to this subject now, for the purpose of correcting a suggestion inadvertently made last month, in replying to a Route Agent, to report to the Appointment Office, alleged illegal acts of certain express-men.

It is of the utmost importance that the system established for the transaction of the public business at the Department, should not only be thoroughly understood, but strictly regarded by postmasters, mail contractors, and others. The books of instruction now in use furnish ample information on this subject.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters from all soldiers in the army, below the rank of a commissioned officer, may be sent through the mails without prepayment—endorsed "Soldier's letter" by a field or staff officer, (or, at detached posts, by the surgeon or chaplain) of the regiment from which they are sent. The same regulation applies to this navy and marine corps, the letter to be endorsed "Sailor's letter," by an officer. In no case are the letters of commissioned officers entitled to this privilege. The postage due on such "soldier's letters" is to be collected at the office of delivery.

Prepaid letters for soldiers, addressed to places where their regiments have been stationed, but from which they have been removed, may be forwarded to the new locality without extra charge.

If a soldier's or a naval letter arrives at any office unpaid, and let it be properly certified, no extra postage is to be charged—only the ordinary letter rates.

MAILING SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—In order to insure the prompt and certain delivery of letters and other mail matter, addressed to officers and soldiers serving in the army of the Potomac, or stationed near Washington, D. C., the Postmaster General directs that postmasters, in making up their mails, whether for Washington direct, or for distributing offices, shall place all army letters in packages by themselves.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

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TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

Canada, N. Brunswick, Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, and Nova Scotia. To Newfoundland prepayment required.

10 cents when not over 3,000 miles from the line of crossing.
15 cents when distance exceeds 3,000 m's. Prepayment optional.

Steamers of the Cunard line sail from Boston twice each month, touching at Halifax, and when letters are sent by that conveyance for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island, the U. S. postage is 5 cents the single rate, to be prepaid. The inland rate is collected on delivery. On newspapers by this route, the postage is two cents each.

Newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and sent to regular subscribers in the British North American Provinces, or published in those Provinces and sent to regular subscribers in the United States, are chargeable with the regular prepaid quarterly rates of United States postage to and from the line; which postage must be collected at the office of mailing in the United States on matter sent in that manner. In like manner, such matter, if transient, is chargeable with the regular domestic transient printed matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States.

Letters received from Canada, to which are affixed uncancelled United States postage stamps of sufficient value to prepay the full postage chargeable thereon, should be delivered without charge by the United States offices.

REGISTRATION OF LETTERS.
Valuable letters for Germany, or any part of the German Empire, or the Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen or Hamburg line via New York, or by the Prussian closed mail via New York and Boston, as also letters addressed to Great Britain and Canada, will be registered on the application of the person posting the same, in the same manner and on the same terms as those letters sent to the United States, provided that the full postage chargeable thereon is paid, together with a registration fee of twenty cents on each letter to Great Britain or Ireland, and five cents on each letter to the other places mentioned above, is pre-paid at the office of mailing. Letters so registered should be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS, ETC.
All letters to and from foreign countries, the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, France and the British North American Provinces (excepted), are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of half an ounce; double rate, if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding an ounce; quadruple rate, if exceeding an ounce, but not exceeding two ounces; and so on, charging two rates for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce over the first ounce.

As this rule differs from that followed in respect to domestic letters, great care is requisite to prevent mistakes. Letters in the mail to France are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of one quarter ounce; double rate, if exceeding one quarter ounce, but not exceeding half an ounce; and so on, an additional rate being charged for each quarter ounce or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Letters addressed to the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, and the British North American Provinces, are rated in the same manner as domestic letters, one rate being charged for each half ounce or fractional part of half an ounce. Postmasters should be careful, where the postage is prepaid, to collect the proper amount, and to be particular to notice the route indicated on the envelopes of letters, and to collect postage accordingly. Letters mailed at some offices, marked "via England," or "via Prussian closed mail," for Great Britain, are frequently taken upon the preparation of Bremen rates, and those marked "via Bremen," at Prussian closed rates, &c.

RATES OF RATING LETTERS GOING VIA FRANCE.
In the case of letters to be forwarded in the British mail for transmission from England via "Marseilles," the French postage is rated at 6 cents the quarter ounce, except on letters for Java, China, Labuan, Borneo, Japan, the Malacca and Philippine Islands, which are rated at eight cents per half ounce, and except also, as on letters for Syria and Tunis, by French packet, when the single French rate is 12 cents per quarter ounce. The rates by "French mail" are in full to destination, except to the following places, viz.: Aden, Batavia, Ceylon, China, cities of Turkey, in Europe, except as herein mentioned, via Austria, countries to which correspondence can be sent via the countries beyond the sea, via France, other than those countries mentioned, India, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Java, Mauritius, Montenegro, Penang, Portugal, Isle of Re-Union, Servia, (except Belgrade), Shanghai, Singapore and Spain. The limit of prepayment to Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, India, Behobah, to Servia, (except Belgrade), Montenegro, and cities of Turkey in Europe, except as herein mentioned, "via Austria," is the frontier of Turkey and Austria, India, East India, and other countries via Suez, the seaports of the Indies, or of the sea of China to which the English packets ply; and to places beyond sea, other than those designated, the limit is the port of arrival in the country of destination. Letters may be forwarded in the French mail to Moldavia, Wallachia, and Turkey in Europe, by way of France and Austria; but the postage thereon must in all cases be paid at the place of destination.

RATES ON PAMPHLETS, ETC.
On pamphlets and magazines, to or from the West coast of South America, the United States postage is four cents; and to or from all other foreign countries, (except Great Britain and the British North American Provinces), one cent on ounce or fraction of an ounce; to be collected in all cases in the United States.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY TO THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE) MUST BE SENT IN narrow bands, open at the sides or ends; otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage.
ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, ETC.
To prevent mistakes at the exchange office, it is desirable that the particular routes by which letters are to be forwarded from the United States to Europe, should be distinctly written on the covers. Letters intended for transmission in the open mail to England, should bear the direction "open mail via England;" if for transmission in the French mail, they should be directed, "via France in French mail;" if for transmission by closed mail to Prussia, they should be directed "via Prussian closed mail;" if for transmission in a closed mail to Belgium, they should be directed "via Belgium closed mail;" and if for transmission by the New York and Bremen line to Bremen, or by the New York and Hamburg line to Hamburg, they should be directed "via Bremen," or "via Hamburg."

It is important that letters addressed to Germany and other European countries, via France, where the single rate per quarter ounce is 21 cents, should be plainly marked to be sent via France; otherwise they may be misout in the open mail to Liverpool by United States packet, the 21 cent rate per half ounce being also chargeable on letters thus forwarded.

DATE OF DEPARTURE OF EUROPEAN, SOUTH PACIFIC AND HAWAIIAN MAILS, FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1864.

Name of the Line	Government belonging to	Date of Departure from New York	Date of Departure from Boston	DESTINATION
Nassau	Great Britain	1	1	Havana and Nassau.
Cunard	Great Britain	1	1	Liverpool.
Aspinwall	Great Britain	3	3	South Pacific, &c.
Havana	U. S.	3	3	Havana.
Havana	U. S.	6	6	Havana.
Dalé	U. S.	6	6	Santhampton & Hamb.
Dalé	U. S.	6	6	Queenstown.
Galway	Great Britain	9	9	Galway.
Cunard	Great Britain	10	10	Liverpool.
Aspinwall	Great Britain	13	13	South Pacific & C. A.
Dalé	U. S.	13	13	Queenstown & Bremen.
Dalé	U. S.	13	13	Queenstown.
Cunard	Great Britain	16	17	Liverpool.
Havana	U. S.	20	20	Havana.
Dalé	U. S.	20	20	Queenstown & Liv'l.
Galway	Great Britain	22	23	Galway.
Aspinwall	U. S.	23	23	South Pacific & C. A.
Cunard	Great Britain	24	24	Liverpool.
Dalé	U. S.	24	24	Queenstown & Liv'l.
Nassau	Great Britain	25	25	Nassau & Havana.

COUNTRIES.

Countries	Not exceeding 1/4 oz.	Over 1/4 oz. and not exceeding 1/2 oz.	Over 1/2 oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	Over 1 oz. and not exceeding 2 oz.	Over 2 oz. and not exceeding 4 oz.	Over 4 oz. and not exceeding 8 oz.	Over 8 oz. and not exceeding 1 lb.	Over 1 lb. and not exceeding 2 lbs.	Over 2 lbs. and not exceeding 4 lbs.	Over 4 lbs. and not exceeding 8 lbs.	Over 8 lbs. and not exceeding 16 lbs.	Over 16 lbs. and not exceeding 32 lbs.	Over 32 lbs. and not exceeding 64 lbs.	Over 64 lbs. and not exceeding 128 lbs.
Acapulco	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Aden, British Mail, via Southampton	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do via Marseilles	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Adriatico, French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Africa, (West Coast), British mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do by Brit. pkt.	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do by Brit. pkt.	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Altona, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 31c.)	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Antoni, French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Arabia, British mail, via Southampton	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do via Marseilles	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do via England	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Ascension, via England	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Aspinwall, for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Australia, British mail, via Southampton	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do via Marseilles	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do by private ship from N. York or Boston	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do French mail (South Austr. com'ry.)	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Suez	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Trieste	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Austria and its States, Prussian closed mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do when prepaid	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do (except prov. in Italy) French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Azores Island, British mail, via Portugal	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Baden, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 25c.)	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do Bremen or Hamburg mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Bahamas, by direct steamer from New York	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Bankok, Siam, by direct steamer from New York	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do via Marseilles	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Batavia, British mail, via Southampton	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do via Marseilles	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Bavaria, Prussian closed mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do when prepaid	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Belgium, French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do via England	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do by British packet	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Belgrade, do do do do by American pkt.	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do by British packet	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Berlin, do do do do by American pkt.	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do by British packet	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Bombay, do do do do by American pkt.	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do by British packet	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Borneo, British mail, via Southampton	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do via Marseilles	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do do French mail	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Bourbon, British mail, via Southampton	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
do do do do via Marseilles														

UNITED STATES MAIL.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.
NEW YORK, MARCH 1864.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1863.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

Postage to Porto Rico.

We are requested to state, that in future mails for Porto Rico will be made up in New York, for the office of the British Packet Agent at San Juan, to be despatched by United States steamers to Havana, and thence by the West India line of British Mail Packets to destination.

The single rate of postage (United States and British) for letters addressed to Porto Rico by this route is 34 cents, prepayment of which is compulsory.

Our Table of Postages has been corrected in accordance with the above change.

OFFICIAL.

Order Establishing a Uniform Law of Letter Postage between the United States and Canada.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 17, 1864.

Whereas the actual distance between San Francisco and the frontier line of Canada, via the overland mail route, as at present traveled, is under the limit of 3,000 miles, within which, by the terms of article 3d of the postal arrangements between the United States and Canada of 25th March, 1851, the combined international rate of ten cents is chargeable; and whereas the Post-Office Department of Canada has, for the sake of uniformity, consented to so modify the provisions of article 3d of the said postal arrangement as to abolish the international postage charge of fifteen cents, the single rate heretofore levied upon letters passing between Canada and California, Oregon, and Washington Territory, and thus establish a uniform postage for letters of ten cents the single rate between Canada and all parts of the United States: It is hereby ordered that in future the international postage charge upon all letters between Canada and any part of the United States shall be ten cents the single rate of half an ounce or under, prepayment optional, without regard to difference of distance or route of conveyance.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Appointment Office.

The publication of the following construction of the new postal law in regard to the weight of packages which may be sent free through the mails is deemed important to the public, and especially to persons connected with the several Executive Departments and Bureaus at Washington:

The maximum weight of packages which may be sent through the mails is limited to four pounds, except Congressional documents and books published or purchased by order of Congress. It was not the intention of the law to prescribe a smaller limit to franked packages to or from any of the Executive Departments or Bureaus, as that would exclude from the mails a large portion of the official correspondence of the Government.

The limitation of packages to four ounces, in the 42d section of the law, was intended to enlarge the privilege of members of Congress, theretofore limited to two ounces; and the omission in the printed law of the words "to Senators and Members of Congress" (as in the original bill) after the word "granted," in the last sentence of that section, leads to an erroneous construction of the true intent and meaning of the law.

The Postmaster General, therefore, directs that packages, otherwise entitled to go free, to and from the several Executive Departments and Bureaus at Washington, and not exceeding four pounds in weight, be allowed free transmission through the mails.

ALEX. W. RANDALL,
First Assistant Postmaster General.

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS.—The Post Office Department wishes marking and rating stamps to all offices entitled to them under the provisions of the 412th standing instruction; but in every instance application must be made to the Appointment Office direct. When this is done, those entitled to receive them will be supplied without cost to the postmaster.

Some postmasters are in the habit of obtaining such stamps from other sources and charging for them in their contingent account. This is wrong, and the practice must be discontinued. In future, any stamps obtained without the previous authority of the Department, will be disallowed in the settlement of the accounts.

Returning Dead Letters.

Postmasters will be careful, in returning dead letters to the Department, to stamp or write thereon the reasons for their non-delivery—such as "Dead," "Cannot be found," "Refused," &c. They will thus avoid the receipt of the following official reminder of neglect which is transmitted by the Department to delinquents in this important matter:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

Postmaster:—The dead letters sent from your office to this Department on the _____ bear no "reason for their non-delivery" (or for their being sent to this office), notwithstanding the imperative direction in relation to Reasons and Post-marks contained in Instruction No. 7, published with Act approved March 3, 1863, under the head of "Marking Dead Letters." (See foot of page 5, Laws and Instructions, 1863.)

While all parts of Instruction No. 7 should be carefully observed, the omission of the reason or the post-mark cannot be excused by this Department.

Very respectfully,
A. N. ZEVELY,

Third Assistant Postmaster General.

The Reason Why.

No doubt some of our correspondents would be glad to know the reasons why certain questions which they refer to us for decision remain unanswered, although they particularly request a reply "by return of post," or in "the next number of the MAIL." The cause of our silence is simply this: That the questions thus put are in a great many cases already answered by paragraphs in the column of "Domestic Postages," "Foreign Miscellany," or other matter which appears every month in the MAIL; or else the published Regulations of the Department are so plain and explicit upon the points in question that nothing we could say would add force or clearness to the instructions there given.

For instance, of what use would it be for us to give a special reply to the question which one correspondent asks, "Can a pair of India rubber boots be mailed to a soldier at the rate of eight cents per four ounces?" The law, plainly printed in our last, as plainly provides that rate exclusively for "woolen, cotton, and linen" clothing; and it would seem hardly necessary to insult the querist's intelligence by informing him that India rubber is not composed of any of those materials. Or if a postmaster informs us that he has had a dispute with a young lady as to the amount of postage to be prepaid on a photographic album, which she insists ought to be considered as "printed matter," would it be anything less than a useless expenditure of our limited space to announce to him that the damsel has evidently an imperfect knowledge of the postal laws? In disputes of this nature, a reference to the law or regulation of the Department bearing on the subject is quite sufficient for the guidance of a postmaster, without submitting the matter to us.

We are far from wishing to discourage our patrons from addressing us on the points which are really doubtful, and on which they are unable to find information either in our columns or in the Laws and Regulations. Questions on these subjects we are always glad to receive and to answer; but we trust our readers will, before appealing to us on questions of official duty, etc., consult carefully the guides furnished by the Department for the purpose of pointing out the right path to pursue in all matters connected with the service.

Free Delivery of Letters.

One of the most important provisions of the new postal law is that establishing a free delivery of mail matter by carriers, which was doubtless intended to encourage that method of delivery in preference to the "call" or "box" system, particularly in large cities; and we cannot but think it presents many advantages to the public.

Letters are equally as safe in the hands of carriers as if delivered from a post office, and are more certain to be handed to the rightful owners, who are thus saved the time and trouble of calling or sending for their correspondence, which is frequently done when there are no letters for the applicant.

Under the old system of delivering letters from post offices, when called for, much time is necessarily consumed in arranging letters in boxes for the general delivery, and distributing them in private boxes for those who rent the latter; while in each of these operations it is almost impossible to avoid mistakes, particularly at the general delivery, where letters are liable to be misplaced in the press of applications. From these causes many letters fail to be delivered in due time, and others are sent to the Dead Letter office.

Whenever it is practicable, letters should be plainly directed to the residence or place of business of the person addressed, and the street and number designated. This is a matter of the first importance in sending letters to cities or large towns; but when the persons addressed are non-residents, whose particular locality cannot be given, this fact should be indicated by the words, "To be called for." On the other hand, every person writing from cities or large towns, should always inscribe at the commencement of his letter the street and number of his residence. This would not only insure the correct and prompt delivery of any reply, but also the restoration of the letter in case it could not be delivered.

Another important requisite is that postage stamps should be placed in the upper right-hand corner of letters, so as to leave ample space between the stamps and the address to allow of postmarking and cancelling without interference with the writing.

A large fire took place at Lafayette, Ind., on the 23d ult., by which many valuable buildings and much property were destroyed, including the post office with all its contents.

Comparing Post-Bills.

Chapter 6, section 61, Regulations of 1859, contains the following important instruction:

"Upon the arrival of the mail at any post office, the packets addressed to that office, and none other, are to be opened, and the postmaster will find with each a bill of the contents, called a post bill. Compare this bill with the contents, and if they do not agree, note upon the bill the amount of the difference, and whether undercharged or overcharged."

We have reason to believe that this regulation, obedience to which is a matter of the most vital necessity, is too frequently neglected by many postmasters and assistants, under various excuses—such as want of time, &c. There is a great temptation, to a man in a hurry, to take it for granted that the contents of a package tally with the post bill, and no doubt it is much easier to trust the post-bill on a file, and proceed at once to sort the letters, than to stop to make the comparison; and a habit of doing business in this loose manner is very apt to cause one to lose sight of the importance of a compliance with the Regulations. But it should be remembered that the neglect of this matter is a gross dereliction from official rectitude; and we trust that no reader of the MAIL employed in a post office will hereafter allow himself to slur over this essential portion of his duties.

The Malden Murder.

At about noon, on the 15th of December last, a young man named Converse, a clerk in the bank, was found in the bank dead, having been shot through the head by some person who had afterwards abstracted about \$5,000 from the drawer. For a long time it was found impossible to detect the perpetrator, although one innocent person was arrested on suspicion and discharged. On the 8th of February, however, Edward W. Green, postmaster of Malden, was arrested for the offence, and made a full confession of his guilt, restoring a large part of the stolen money.

Notwithstanding his previous character was reported good, Green, the murderer, appears to have been guilty of a series of crimes all springing from extravagant habits. He was postmaster, as the successor of his father, deceased, two or three years since, the post-office was entered in the night time and robbed. It is now believed that he was the robber. Last year, he was entrusted by the town of Malden to purchase school books, and was a defaulter to the amount of five hundred dollars. His accounts with the Government were also found not to be straight, and his bondsmen were obliged to arrange them; and in November, the building in which the post-office was kept, was fired. He now acknowledges that he was the incendiary, designing by burning the post-office and its contents, to keep the Government funds in his possession. If he had succeeded in that, he probably would not have committed the murder.

POSTAGE ON FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS.—We have received lately a number of inquiries on the subject of postage on foreign newspapers. In reply to these, we will state (1) that no foreign newspapers arrive here on which the whole postage is prepaid at the mailing office, except such as come from Belgium, and those by Bremen, Hamburg, or Prussian closed mail. On all other foreign papers the United States postage is to be collected before delivery. (2) Postage on foreign papers cannot be prepaid at the quarterly rates by a subscriber in this country, nor can publishers here prepay quarterly rates to subscribers in foreign countries—they may, however, prepay those rates on papers to subscribers in the British North American Provinces; but it must be understood that such prepayment covers only the United States postage to the boundary line. (3) The fact that a foreign postage stamp is attached to a paper arriving here from any country not excepted above, does not affect the fact that the United States postage is still to be collected from the person to whom it is addressed.

CORRECTION.—In noticing, last month, the portable printing presses manufactured by Mr. E. S. Zevely, of Cumberland, Md., we fear that our language may have conveyed to some of our readers an erroneous impression as to their price when a full supply of type, ink, etc., is desired to accompany them. The following note from Mr. Zevely will correct any such impression:

The press, packed at \$5, as you may well suppose, if it is worth anything at all, cannot yield very great profit. It will require at least \$5 more in type, ink, roller, &c., to print anything worth while—making the whole cost \$10.

WOMAN'S (P. O.) RIGHTS.—We stated in a late number that a lady postmaster, on marrying, would have to give a new official bond to the Department, and that she, and not her husband, would still hold the postal reins. A further examination on these points has satisfied us that by the act of marrying her official relations with the Post Office Department would be dissolved entirely. There is no direct law against a married woman holding the office of postmaster; but we find that the decisions and practice of the Department are against it, on the ground that a lady thus situated cannot legally execute a bond, enumerating that as one of the indispensable qualifications of a postmaster.

We wish we had the necessary space to give an ingeniously written communication on this subject, just received by us from a learned friend in Washington.

ANOTHER POST OFFICE ROBBERY.—The post office at Niagara Falls was entered by horning through a rear door on the night of January 22, 1864, and a number of letters stolen—a portion of which were subsequently recovered in a dilapidated condition, and most of them delivered to those for whom they were intended. Ten or twelve dollars worth of stamps were stolen. The robber was arrested a day or two afterwards on a charge of burglary committed in Buffalo, and is now in the States Prison at Auburn.

Depredation Cases.

MAIL ROBBERY AND FORGERY.—On January 23d, a man calling himself A. S. Barton was arrested at Hartford, Conn., for forging an endorsement to a check for \$148, drawn on the Windham County Bank, by George Danielson, of Danielsonville, and endorsed by him, payable to A. S. Chase, cashier of the Waterbury Bank, or order. The check was sent with a letter from Danielsonville on the 19th ult., by mail, directed to Mr. Chase, and the next day was received by the cashier of the Windham County Bank, in a letter, ordering the money to be sent to the writer, A. S. Barton, at Hartford: The forgery was made in a bungling manner, and was easily detected. A decoy letter was at once prepared and deposited in the post office at Hartford, which led to the speedy arrest of Barton, by officers who were in waiting at the general delivery of the office to detect him: He was taken before the police court for trial, on the charge of forgery. There was no evidence that he had committed such a crime; but it was clear that the mails had been tampered with somewhere, and it was hoped that his examination would, if it did not establish his own guilt, implicate the proper person. On the 4th ult., Barton was taken before Erastus Smith, United States Commissioner, and, after a brief examination, the case was adjourned to the 18th, the prisoner being placed under \$1,000 bonds and remanded to jail.

Postmaster Cleveland, of Hartford, assisted by Col. Kennedy, exerted himself to the utmost to discover the facts in the case, and finally succeeded in obtaining the following confession:

"I left Boston on the afternoon of January 18th, and came to Worcester, and stopped there at Swan's Hotel, under the name of Wheeler. The next day I came to Springfield, and from there to Hartford. I got here just before dark, and went up street, and then went back to the depot after dark. When the mail-bags were thrown out of the mail-car, the messenger took them and drew them up to the baggage room and left them. I watched my opportunity, and when his back was turned, caught up one of the bags under my arm and ran out of the depot with it. I took it up to the yard where you found it, and cut it open, took out the letters, and left some papers in it, and then hid it under the hedge. I then went up to the street where I went yesterday and showed you, and walked back and forth on the sidewalk, opening letters all the time, and as fast as I opened them and found nothing in them, I showed them under the hedge. I only found three dollars in money in them all. I endorsed the check in the City Hotel, and sent it from there, in a letter to the Windham County Bank. The reason I did it was, I was here in a strange place, without money, and became desperate and bold. I came to Hartford to enlist in the 10th regiment, in which I've got an intimate friend."

He says his name is not Barton, but refuses to give it. He is a man about twenty-eight years of age. He was remanded for examination before a United States Commissioner.

IMPORTANT ARREST IN NEW YORK.—On the 11th ult., Charles Meigs, for some years past Superintendent at Station D, New York post office, was arrested by Mr. J. Gayler, of the Special Agent's Department, on two charges of secreting and embezzling valuable letters, and was held to bail by Mr. Commissioner Betts in the sum of \$10,000. For some time past complaints had been frequent of the loss of letters addressed to that portion of the city in which the Station is located, and last spring one of the letter carriers, named Van Cott, was detected, and is now awaiting trial. A temporary cessation of losses was the consequence; but the troubles being lately renewed, Mr. Gayler became convinced, from various suspicious circumstances, that Meigs was the depredator. By means which it is not necessary or proper to detail, he succeeded in establishing the fact of his guilt in at least two cases, and so timed his operations that when the arrest was made one of the purloined letters was found upon the prisoner's person. Meigs is very respectably connected, and the disgrace consequent upon his criminal conduct will be a heavy blow to many innocent persons. Gambling, and the indulgence in expenses beyond his means, are supposed to have been the cause of his fall.

ARREST OF A MAIL CARRIER.—James W. Pulis, a mail carrier and contractor on the special route extending from Sloatsburg, N. Y., to West Milford, N. J., was arrested on the 30th January by E. K. Sharrets, Esq., Special Agent of the Department, on a charge of embezzling letters from the mail. Pulis had been for some years engaged as stage-driver and mail carrier, and during that time numerous complaints have been made of the loss of letters addressed to West Milford, and also to intermediate places on his route, to which he was in the habit of carrying letters outside of the pouch. It is supposed that he obtained access to the pouch by pretending to lock it while at the Sloatsburg office, but omitting to do so until after investigating its contents while alone in his stage. Last summer he thus obtained possession of a misent letter addressed New Milford, containing a check for \$10, the endorsement of which he forged, and then enclosed the check under an assumed name in payment for some goods ordered. He was brought to New York, and held to bail in \$5,000 on the charge of mail robbery, and will also be indicted for forgery.

ANOTHER.—On the 26th February, Mr. S. B. Row, Special Agent, P. O. D., arrested Frantz Bahr, mail carrier from Easton to Hellertown, Pa. He was caught in the act of taking a package of letters from the pouch after leaving one of the offices on the route, was arrested and brought to Philadelphia the same evening. He is a man of family and owns some property, is 67 years of age, and has been 9 years in the service. On the 26th he was committed to answer at court.

APPROACHING POST OFFICE TRIALS.—During the March term of the United States Circuit Court in New York, before Judge Shipman, the trial of several cases of post office robbery will be called for by E. Delsfield Smith, Esq., United States District Attorney. Among them are the cases of Thos. Van Cott, John L. H. Cargill, and Humphrey Ayres, all persons formerly connected with the New York post office.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Post Office Blanks.

POST OFFICE KENNEDY POINT, ME.,
February 8, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail:

I notice in your instructions in regard to Army Correspondence the following: "The Postmaster General directs that postmasters, in making up their mails, whether for Washington direct, or for distributing offices, shall place all army letters in packages by themselves, and plainly mark them Army Letters."

I saw this some time since, and accordingly make up my packages for Boston (our distributing office) marked "Army." They sent me a circular letter, a few days since, saying that I must put all my army letters with the other letters to that office for distribution, and thus do away with the army package. Either you or they are wrong—which is it?

Yours truly,
JAMES L. COLE,
Postmaster.

The order of the Department of April 1, 1863, directs such letters to be made up separately, in the words quoted by our correspondent; and we can give him no better advice than to follow those instructions.—[ED. MAIL.]

POST OFFICE, M., N. J.,
February, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail:

I am asked the question, to which I find no solution either in the MAIL, or the Laws and Instructions of the Department, in this office, whether the postage upon a foreign newspaper taken regularly and the postage prepaid for a quarter, is anything different from the transient rates. If it is, please inform me wherein, and where to find it? Very truly yours,
A. A. V.

We trust we shall not be called on again to state that the (United States) postage on a foreign newspaper, whether "taken regularly" or not, cannot be prepaid quarterly, and that transient postage thereon is always to be collected on delivery.—[ED. MAIL.]

EDITOR U. S. MAIL.—At what time after the name of an office has been changed is the postmaster to open his account under the new post office name? Also, should the postmaster make his quarterly return immediately for the old office, or should he wait until the close of the current quarter?

When the Postmaster General shall change the name of an existing office, the order will not take effect until the postmaster shall have executed new bonds, and returned them to the appointment office. The new name is then to be used from and after the last day of the next succeeding quarter. See 33d Standing Instruction, page 64, edition of 1859.

FRAUDULENT LOTTERY CIRCULARS, &c.—Postmasters, when informed of the receipt at their offices of circulars or letters addressed to parties within their delivery, which are sent with a view to obtain money under false pretences—whether in the shape of bogus lotteries, fraudulent gift distributions, notifications of a fictitious "package" to be sent on receipt of charges, or any similar device—should lose no time in notifying a Special Agent of the intended swindle, in order that such measures as the regulations of the Department will justify may be taken in time to frustrate the designs of the rogues.

A correspondent "wishes to inquire if communications for publication in newspapers can be mailed at the rate of two cents per four ounces, the same as book manuscripts?" We have referred the question to Mr. Bunaby, who gives "an opinion as to an opinion." He says: "If so be as a letter to a newspaper is a book manuscript, why so; but if so be as it isn't (which it isn't), why so also. Can any man say otherwise!" To which we add that we coincide with Mr. B.

We regret to observe that a New Hampshire paper, in commenting upon the recent arrest of Green, the Malden postmaster, for murder, has descended to the exceedingly disreputable task of attempting to make political capital out of the fact that he was appointed by the present Administration. "Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good;" but we think that using as a weapon the political opinions of a murderer is carrying even partisan warfare—in which many rather unscrupulous expedients are perhaps looked upon as allowable—a little further than the respectable portion of any party would regard with anything but disgust.

ODGENSBURG, N. Y., POST-OFFICE.—During the quarter ending 31st December, 1864, there were mailed at the post-office at Odgenburgh, N. Y., 43,689 letters, amounting to \$1,549 05; the sale of postage stamps and stamped envelopes for the same quarter amounted to \$1,849 76.

The above shows a material increase in the business of this office, and speaks well for the growing business prosperity of this pleasant Northern town.

DEATH OF THE OLDEST POSTMASTER.—Mr. Gould Hawley, late postmaster at South Salem, Westchester county, N. Y., died at that place on the 24th of January last, aged 82 years. He had held the office for the last fifty years—a longer term, we believe, than any other postmaster in the United States.

A petition has been presented to Congress, numerously signed by New York merchants and others, praying for increased mail facilities between that city and Washington.

Miscellaneous Information.

Army Correspondence. Letters from all soldiers in the army, below the rank of a commissioned officer, may be sent through the mails without prepayment—endorsed "Soldier's letter" by a field or staff officer, (or, at detached posts, by the surgeon or chaplain) of the regiment from which they are sent. The same regulation applies to the navy and marine corps, the letter to be plain to the navy and "Soldier's letter" by an officer. In no case are the letters of commissioned officers entitled to this privilege. The postage due on such "soldier's letters" is to be collected at the office of delivery. Prepaid letters for soldiers, addressed to places where their regiments have been stationed, but from which they have been removed, may be forwarded to the new locality without extra charge.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

If a soldier's or a naval letter arrives at any office unpaid, and yet is properly certified, no extra postage is to be charged—only the ordinary letter rate.

CLOTHING TO SOLDIERS.—Articles of clothing, being manufactured of wool, cotton or linen, and comprised in a package not exceeding two pounds in weight, addressed to an commissioned officer or private serving in the armies of the United States, may be transmitted in the mails of the United States at the rate of eight cents, to be in all cases prepaid, for every four ounces, and in proportion thereon, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

MAILING SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—In order to insure the prompt and certain delivery of letters and other mail matter, addressed to officers and soldiers serving in the army of the Potomac, or stationed near Washington, D. C., the Post Master General directs that postmasters, in making up their mails, whether for Washington direct, or for distributing offices, shall place all army letters in packages by themselves, and plainly mark them "Army Letters," so that when such packages arrive in Washington, they may be taken at once to an apartment provided for their reception, without being opened with the mails for the city.

Dead Letters.

By the instructions under the new postal law, UNPAID LETTERS are specified to be—

Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps not cut from the wrapper.

Unpaid letters for foreign countries, on which prepayment is required by the regulations.

Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.

Letters undirected to places where there are no post offices.

Unpaid letters directed to any Executive Department, or to any officer therein, and not franked according to law.

Only such letters as are herein described are, when deposited in any post office, to be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office; all others must be dispatched to their destination, (or, if drop letters, delivered,) charges with double the amount of unpaid postage, according to section 36, of the act of March 3, 1863.

When nonmailable letters are sent to this office, the special order thereon should be endorsed upon the envelope of each. Under the present law, no letter can be regarded as "held for postage," hence the use of such stamps is improper.

These instructions will be strictly followed at all post offices.

For more full instructions relating to dead letters, advertising letters, &c., examine carefully the 7th and 8th Sections of the Act of 3d March, 1863, and the instructions attached thereto.

Congressional Mails.

Under the order of the Department, postmasters are required, in making up their papers for Members of Congress, to place them in separate packages, and write distinctly on each package the word "Congress, Washington, D. C.," embracing only mail matter for Senators and Representatives. This will enable any distributing office through which they may pass, to place them, without delay, in the "Congress" bags, which, on arriving at Washington, are delivered to the congressional Messenger, and do not go into the Washington office at all, thus saving the time necessarily required to select out this class of letters at the Washington post office.

These instructions are only applicable to offices which do not do the Washington office, and yet are in the habit of making up direct packages of letters for that city.

Foreign Letters, &c.

RULE FOR RATING LETTERS TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.—The attention of postmasters is particularly called to the mode of rating postage upon letters exchanged in the mails between this country and the United Kingdom, which differs essentially from the United States domestic scale, in the weight of the postal letter exceeding one ounce.

The scale of progression adopted for letters exchanged with the United Kingdom is as follows, viz.:

One rate for a single letter not exceeding ½ oz. in weight.

Two rates when over ½, but not exceeding 1 ounce.

Four rates when over 1, but not exceeding 2 ounces.

Six rates when over 2, but not exceeding 3 ounces; and so on, charging two additional rates for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

Thus, a letter to Great Britain, weighing 1½ ounces, should be paid \$2.40, being chargeable as five ounces, or ten rates; but if \$2.16 (nine rates only) are paid, owing to an omission to count the fraction as a full ounce, it then goes unpaid, and the \$2.16 is lost to the writer of the letter. The letters are treated as wholly unpaid, and the amount paid lost to the sender.

In no case should 3, 5 or 7 rates be collected upon a letter or packet addressed to the United Kingdom, the proper charges being either 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 rates, &c., according to weight.

Notwithstanding the explicit instructions of the Department on this subject, it is found that many postmasters are in the practice of charging postage upon letters addressed to the United Kingdom according to our domestic scale, (viz.: one rate for each half ounce or fraction of an ounce,) and this is a most inefficient mode of postage, and frequently prepaid, which are entirely lost to the senders, and no account is taken of short payments of postage.

Letters to foreign countries, where prepayment of postage is not required, and yet are sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be opened and returned to the writers, and are thereby delayed—over two mails, and, no doubt, in many cases, causing serious loss and annoyance to the writers.

REGISTERING FOREIGN LETTERS.—Letters can be registered in the United States for Great Britain and Ireland, for Germany, or any part of the German Empire, for Austria, for Bremen, Hamburg, or Prussian closed mails. Letters to Canada can be registered, but not to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward's Island. Postmasters will, therefore, decline to register letters addressed to other foreign countries.

Our Postal Convention with the United Kingdom, provides that each country shall levy and collect its postage only on newspapers, at the rate of two cents each, whether they are sent or received. Hence, newspapers received in this country from Great Britain come prepaid the British postage only, and postmasters must be particular, in all cases, to collect the United States charge of two cents on their delivery.

CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE.—Intercourses having arisen in respect to Canadian correspondence, these directions are hereby published.

Letters addressed to Canada must be mailed and post-hilled to a United States Exchange Office. Letters cannot be sent direct to Post Offices in Canada.

The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is 10 cents, prepayment optional; but the whole postage must be prepaid or none. Part prepayments are not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

A postmaster may frank a letter to Canada the same as to any point in the United States; but it is optional for the Canadian, P. O. Department to deliver such letter free, or charge full postage on it, at its pleasure.

COLLECTIONS IN COIN.—In pursuance of the provisions of a resolution of Congress, approved March 3d, 1863, all postages due on unpaid letters received from foreign countries in the mails despatched to this country from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen, or Belgium, are collected in gold or silver coin. Should a sender, in payment of such postage, and of the premium on a corresponding amount of coin, be tendered in United States notes, the same is to be accepted in lieu of coin. The amount of coin collected in U. S. notes, (in case coin is not offered,) is marked on each letter on its arrival at U. S. Exchange Offices, and is charged in the post-bills. Hence, when coin is collected at the office of delivery, the difference should be entered in the account of Mails Received as an overcharge.

The above applies exclusively to the mails received from the countries mentioned.

In all other cases the former regulations remain unchanged, and, when prepaid, the regular rates only are to be collected.

United States Exchange Offices for Foreign Mails.

New York is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian, Belgian, Bremen and Hamburg Mails.

Boston is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian and Belgian Mails.

Philadelphia is an office of Exchange for British and French Mails.

San Francisco is an office of Exchange for British and French Mails.

Portland, Detroit, and Chicago, are offices of Exchange for British, Prussian and French Mails.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of February:

ESTABLISHED.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	COURT.
*	Arlington,	Sibley,	Minn.	Special
*	Brook Dale,	Susquehanna,	Pa.	3,296
*	Free,	Baltimore,	Md.	32,04
*	Boles,	Franklin,	Mo.	10,401
*	Beerwood,	Marshall,	W. Va.	B. & O. R.R.
*	Bloomington,	Polk,	Iowa,	11,965
*	Blue Rock,	Carroll,	Kentucky,	9,558
*	Cedar Falls,	Dubuque,	Iowa,	Special
*	Crittenden Springs,	Crittenden,	Kentucky,	Special
*	Duane's Retreat,	Washington,	Utah,	Special
*	Empire,	Rock Castle,	Kentucky,	Special
*	Farmington,	Warren,	Ohio,	11,056
*	Fairfield,	Cedar,	Utah,	10,773
*	Grafton,	Washington,	D. C.	Special
*	Girardville,	Schuykill,	Pennsylvania,	Special
*	Harmoy,	Vernon,	Wis.	12,124
*	Hillman,	Dubuque,	Iowa,	10,773
*	Hotchkissville,	Summit,	Utah,	10,773
*	Hurlbuts Corners,	Crawford,	Wisconsin,	Special
*	Jeddo,	Luzern,	Pennsylvania,	Special
*	Joyfield,	Beutzel,	Dakota,	12,703
*	James River,	Dakota,	Dakota,	12,703
*	Lake Pleasant,	Erie,	Pennsylvania,	Special
*	Lewis,	Kendall,	Illinois,	9,813
*	Michellsvilleburg,	Boyle,	Kentucky,	Special
*	Manorville,	Franklin,	Pennsylvania,	Special
*	Middle Branch,	Chicago,	Minnesota,	Special
*	Monitor,	Tippecanoe,	Indiana,	12,144
*	Myrtle,	Aroostook,	Maine,	Special
*	Norris,	Carroll,	Ohio,	9,125
*	Nesbain,	Bucks,	Pennsylvania,	9,211
*	Oakland Mills,	Nicholas,	Kentucky,	2,504
*	Pewabic,	Outanogau,	Michigan,	Special
*	Pratt,	Franklin,	Ohio,	Special
*	Pratt Home,	Shelby,	Ohio,	Special
*	Pedler's Grove,	Waseca,	Minnesota,	13,506
*	Red Brick,	Sullivan,	New York,	1,421
*	Ridge Prairie,	St. Clair,	Illinois,	10,990
*	Rocky Hill,	Washington,	Ohio,	Special
*	Randall,	Rockcastle,	Kentucky,	Special
*	South Hanover,	Plymouth,	Massachusetts,	Special
*	Soda Springs,	Idaho,	Idaho,	Special
*	Santa Fe,	Alexander,	Illinois,	10,405
*	Silver Creek,	Stevenson,	Illinois,	Special
*	Springdale,	Washington,	Utah,	Special
*	State Centre,	Marshall,	Iowa,	10,960
*	Starkville,	Warren,	Illinois,	11,739
*	Townsend Line,	Huron,	Ohio,	Special
*	Virginia City,	Idaho,	Idaho,	Special
*	Velp,	Brown,	Wisconsin,	13,655
*	Waverlytown,	Wayne,	Kentucky,	9,226
*	White Pine,	Pennsylvania,	Pennsylvania,	Special
*	White Swan,	Kent,	Michigan,	Special

* Re-established.

DISCONTINUED.

[In the annexed List will be found added, the names of the nearest offices to which matter for those having been discontinued, should be sent.]

NAME.	COUNTY.	STATE.	NEAREST OFFICE.
Alcove,	Fond du Lac,	Wis.	Fond du Lac
Blackst. Cross,	Kent,	Del.	Smyrna
Blair,	Portage,	Ohio,	Aurora
Branch,	Branch,	Michig.	Gold Water
Big Creek,	Jackson,	Mo.	Warrensburg
Belmont,	Bullitt,	Ky.	MT-Washington
Big Cedar,	Jackson,	Mo.	Independence
Big Springs,	Crawford,	Wis.	Eastman
Blue Hill,	Corper,	Mo.	Beauville
Cold Neck,	Lewis,	Ky.	Vanceburgh
Clarksburg,	Lander,	Nev.	Austin
Clifton,	Washington,	Ohio,	Rosedale
Clarksburg,	Pike,	Ind.	Fredricksburg
Clarksburg,	Madison,	Mo.	Fredericksburg
Farrer's Mills,	Lucas,	Iowa,	La Grange
Greenville,	Monongomery,	Md.	Rockville
Germantown,	Merced,	Cal.	Mariposa Co
Hopewell,	Jennings,	Ind.	Vernon
Hilo,	Nicollet,	Minn.	St. Peters
Kirkland,	Adams,	Ind.	Warren, Hann-
Liberty Centre,	Wells,	Ill.	Bluffton
Lacey,	DeKalb,	Ill.	Sycamore
Limberville,	Marion,	Ohio,	Marion
Longview,	Monroe,	La.	Campo Seco
Mount Prospect,	Prospect,	Ill.	Genesee Grove
Marvel,	Bates,	Mo.	Clinton, Henry Co.
Monagan,	St. Clair,	Ill.	Oceola
Oliver,	Taylor,	Iowa,	Bedford
Oliver's Mills,	Grant,	Wis.	Beetown
Pigeon Creek,	Pike,	Ill.	Kinderhook
Pink Hill,	Jackson,	Mo.	Independence
Porter's Bar,	Covery,	W. Va.	Moore River
Partin Pond,	Somerset,	Me.	West Ripley
Ripley,	Cooper,	Mo.	Tipton
River Hill,	Cooper,	Mo.	New Landing
River Side,	Ulster,	N. Y.	New Landing
Side View,	Montgomery,	Ky.	Mt. Sterling
San Pedro,	Los Angeles,	Cal.	Los Angeles
Shelbyville,	Madison,	Mo.	Independence
Sibley,	Jackson,	Mo.	Independence
Strong Point,	Wood,	Wis.	Grand Rapids
South Kent,	Litchfield,	Conn.	Kent
Sims,	Wood,	Wis.	Orion
Saratoga,	Scott,	Mo.	Benton
Sikeston,	Kenbeck,	Mo.	Augusta
Togus Springs,	Holt,	Mo.	North Point
Tarkio,	Holt,	Mo.	North Point
Taylor,	Franklin,	Pa.	Comptonville
Vermont,	Cooper,	Mo.	Beauville
Valley Farm,	Jackson,	Ind.	Browstown
West Newport,	Orleans,	Vt.	Newport
Wahoo,	Madison,	Ohio,	Tradersville.

NAMES CHANGED.

Allensville, Switzerland, Ind. to East Enterprise.
Breckenridge, Pope, Ill. to Bay City.
Carter, Sangamon, Ill. to New Berlin.
Fort Jefferson, Darke, Ohio, Otwell's Mills.
Hull Prairie, Wood, Ohio, Haskins.
Kent Station, New Ind. to Advance.
Line Mills, Crawford, Pa., Lineville Station.
Normanville, Douphan, Kan., Ridge Farm.
South Pekin, Niagara, New York, Sanborn.
Lynchburg, Butler, Ohio, Synners Corners.
Sandy Lake, Ill. to Mrs. Emory Taylor.
Weston, Marathon, Wis., Kelly's Mill.

REOPENED.

Berkley Springs, Morgan, W. Va., Mrs. Margt. Cross
Fort Smith, Sebastian, Ark., Francis E. Adams.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.

San Francisco, San Francisco, Cal., R. F. Perkins.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Akensville, Fulton, Pa., Miss Amanda Akens.
Cross Plains, Ripley, Ind., Mrs. Jaqueline Roberts.
Deer Creek, Livingston, Mich., Mrs. Lovicy How.
Forestville, Del., Mrs. Henrietta Vankuren.
Sandy Lake, Ill., Mrs. Emory Taylor.
Jackson, Jackson, W. Va., Mrs. Henrietta Rogers.
Neshonoe, La Cross, Wis., Mrs. Sylvia Birchard.
Ponoboscot, Hancock, Me., Miss Belinda Perkins.
Sand Lake, Del., Miss Margaret Adams.
Stony Fork, Toga, Pa., Miss Elizabeth Hadley.

Time Occupied in the Transmission of Letters from Distant Points to N. Y. City.

From	Days	From	Days	
Buffalo, Me.	2	Manassas, Tenn.	4	
Buffalo, N. Y.	2	Nehaska, Mo.	5	
Beaufort, S. C.	3	New Mexico.	20	
Beaufort, N. C.	4	6 Natches, Miss.	11	
Concord, N. H.	1	New Orleans, La.	7	
Chicago, Ill.	2	St. Augustin, Tex.	3	
Cincinnati, Ohio	2	Newbern, N. C.	3	
California, overland	25	Pittsburg, Pa.	1	
Colorado Terr.	12	Portland, Me.	1	
Detroit, Mich.	2	Port Royal, S. C.	3	
Duquene, Iowa.	3	Quebec, Can.	2	
Denver City.	12	St. Louis, Mo.	2	
Fernandina, Fla.	7	St. Paul, Min.	5	
Galena, Ill.	2	St. Augustin, Fla.	7	
Kansas, N. W. corner.	8	Toledo, Ohio.	3	
Key West.	7	7	Vicksburg, Miss.	11
Louisville, Ky.	2	8	Oregon.	11
Louisville, Ky.	2	9	Wash. Terr.	30
Madison, Wis.	2	10	Utah.	40
Montreal, Can.	2	11	Utah.	40

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid,) excepting those written at the offices of the government addressed to the department with which they are connected, and on official business, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelope, prepayment in money being prohibited.

Letters to drop must be prepaid, at the rate of two cents per half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, by postage stamps. If not prepaid, the double rate is to be charged.

The single rate of postage on all domestic mail letters throughout the United States is three cents per half ounce, with an additional rate of three cents for each additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce. The former ten cent (Pacific) rate is abolished.

RATES OF LETTER POSTAGE BETWEEN OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES, AND TO AND FROM CANADA AND OTHER BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

To and from Canada, 10c. per ½ oz., irrespective of distance.

To and from other British N. Am. Provinces, for distance not over 3,000 miles. 10 cts. For any distance over 3,000 miles. 15 "

For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate charged. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever.

Daguerreotypes, when sent in the mail, are to be charged with letter postage by weight and value. Photographs, cards, paper, and other flexible material, (not in cases or albums,) can be sent at the same rate as miscellaneous printed matter—viz., two cents for each four ounces or fraction thereof.

Photographers are not, properly considered, "mail matter in boxes," and when sent in the mail they are subject to letter rates of postage to be prepaid by stamps, agreeably to the provisions of the Act of 1857, approved August 15th, 1857.

Postmasters are authorized to pay for any letter addressed to the United States by any sea-going vessel from a foreign port, (not carrying the mail,) two cents, and for each letter addressed to the United States by any land route, one cent; but to entitle the carrier to such payment, the letters must be promptly delivered to the post office at the place of destination, the post office where deposited, such letters will be charged with double rates of postage, to be collected at the office of delivery; that is to say, six cents for the single weight if mailed, and four cents the single weight if delivered at the office; but if such letter has been prepaid by United States stamps, at such double rate of postage, no additional charge will be made. If only partly prepaid by stamps, double the balance will be charged and collected on delivery.

Newspaper Postage.

Postage on Daily Papers to subscribers when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, (not at retail,) is as follows:

For Tri-Weekly, 35 cts.
Six times per week, 30 "

For Tri-Weekly, 15 "

For Weekly, 10 "

For Semi-Weekly, 10 "

For Weekly, 10 "

For Semi-Weekly, 10 "

For Weekly, 10 "

For Semi-Weekly, 10 "

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For Weekly, 10 "

For Semi-Weekly, 10 "

copy as on transient matter. If they fall, they will be charged with the full postage due, and in clear cases removed from office for neglect.

To inclose or conceal a letter or other thing (except bills and receipts for subscription) in, or to write or print anything, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marks or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, other than the name and address of the person to whom it is to be sent, and the date when subscription expires, subjects the package to letter postage.

POST OFFICE BLANKS.

The agencies for supplying postmasters with blanks are as follows:

DISTRICT NO. 1.—Supplies blanks for the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "J. Guest, Blank Agent, Washington, District of Columbia."

DISTRICT NO. 2.—Supplies blanks for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California and Oregon Territory, and Washington Territory. Postmasters in either of these States or Territories, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "Deerly Clarke, Blank Agent, New York, N. Y."

DISTRICT NO. 3.—Supplies blanks for the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind should address "A. L. Lee, Blank Agent, St. Louis, Mo."

When the postage collected at an office amount to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on the post bills. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$1250 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping paper and twine, at the above agencies.

Applications for blank registers of arrival and departure of the mails must be made direct to the "Inspection Office," for special instructions, to the first Assistant Postmaster General.

All postmasters whose compensation is less than \$1250 per quarter, can purchase a reasonable quantity of wrapping paper and twine, provided the net proceeds of the office exceed twenty dollars per year.

STAMPS.

UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Vol. IV., No. 7.

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1864.

WHOLE NO. 43.

Who is Responsible?

An article, with the caption "Ladies Letters," appeared in a late number of our paper, which contained just and pertinent strictures on the style of chirography adopted by so many young ladies that it might almost be called the prevailing style. And if it is the prevailing style, of course, the laws of fashion will require its adoption by those of the fair sex who are yet behind the times. We do not say this to discourage the post office clerks. We have great confidence in their power to decipher any characters which can be made by pen and ink, from a Choateu spasm down (or up) to the finest of the dainty hieroglyphics which have called forth the remonstrance of our correspondent, "Post-office Clerks."

But our friends should remember the utility of struggling against fashion. It is the old story of Mrs. Partington's broom *versus* the Atlantic. Still it may be a duty to ply the broom, and we take the opportunity to follow up the subject which our correspondent's sprightly article has suggested.

The grievance of which he speaks, namely, illegible chirography, comes from a direction in which one would hardly expect beforehand to find it. Our young ladies are of course taught everything, and it is presumed that when they leave school they are fitted for the struggle of life, so far as requirements and accomplishments can fit them. But we are compelled to inter from the facts in the case that they receive no systematic instruction in the very necessary art of penmanship. If this art (as has been said of language) was given to man to conceal his thoughts, the design is very effectually answered in many instances. The mistakes, misunderstandings, delays, and losses of time, temper, and money which have resulted from searching, instead of writing, would make a formidable catalogue. A flourishing plant is a desirable thing, but a flourishing chirography is the reverse. We would advise those of our fair readers who write letters (no doubt all of them do) to confine their embellishments and "cavortings" to the inside of their epistles, and to restrain the prancings of their pens when they write the address, for post-office clerks unfortunately take a different view of the matter from John Augustus or Lanza Mastida.

To go somewhat into detail, the obscure writing of capitals in the superscription of letters is a capital offence in the eyes of Post-Office employees. For instance, the letter M is converted by a superfluous flourish into a W, or a K into an R or a B, so that Mr. May's letter goes to Mr. Way—Miss Ring receives the epistle intended for Miss King, and in this way important secrets sometimes come to the eyes of those from whom it is desirable to conceal them. These doubtful capitals have a controlling influence in deciding upon the name of the person addressed, or of the State or town to which the letter is to be sent. A general improvement in chirography would materially diminish the business of the dead-letter office.

We agree with our correspondent in detesting the envelopes which have lately been introduced. We might suppose that their diminutive size (presuming that the fashion is of American origin) was adopted with the intention of saving paper; but this supposition is excluded by the fact that economy of material is a principle which prevails at present in no other department of the necessities or luxuries of life, and we are compelled to class the phenomenon with ultimate facts, which must be accepted, but cannot be explained.

We are far from intending to say that ladies alone are guilty of writing an incomprehensible hand. Young men who desire to be thought geniuses, and try to write like Napoleon, or Byron, or Choate, and older men who have written in a hurry until their writing is so bad that they are often puzzled to read it themselves, also deserve a lecturing. But we have said enough for the present on this subject, and request "all to whom these presents may come" to apply to themselves such portions of our homily as may suit their case.

POST OFFICE MAPS.—Mr. J. M. Wood, of Hudson, Mich., has in preparation a series of maps of the United States, to be published in sheets or numbers, showing all the post-routes, and the locations and names of all post-offices in the country. Such a publication would be found exceedingly useful to all connected with the mail service, and supply a want which has long been felt.

A P. O. Clerk sends us the following good sample of a prompt reply which he lately received. It is a warning to question-askers:—

A man called at our general delivery one day, when I happened for the moment to be engaged elsewhere in the office. He whistled loudly. I stepped to the window, and savagely inquired "Whose dog he was whistling for?" "One of Uncle Sam's pups," he said, quite comely. I had nothing to say.

A correspondent says that the meanest man he ever saw was one who, getting married not long since, tried to send his wedding-cards as circulars!

Brevity in Letter Writing.

Brevity is the soul of business as well as of wit. It your style of writing is what is called "copious,"—if you are in the habit of pouring out doods of words upon paper, which fill the margin and flow back in a tide of cross lining,—in fact, if you must, this, adage upon your correspondents who are outside of business circles; but spare those whose minutes are silver and whose hours are gold,—merchants, bankers, editors, the conductors of correspondence, and other functionaries in public offices. With these, diffuseness is an unpardonable sin, and "fine writing" an abomination. If you can pay what you have to say in three lines, don't spread yourself over as many pages. We cannot too strongly articulate upon any one who is intending to enter upon a business line the necessity of cultivating a condensed style of expression in writing. This acquirement is highly and justly prized by all business men, whether private or public, and gives its possessor a great advantage over those who in other respects may be as well qualified as he. For it makes a material difference to a large firm or office whether their correspondence is carried on by clerks who use no superfluous words, or by those who expend an unnecessary amount of time and space. The balance on the score of economy alone is largely in favor of the former class; and the possibility of punctuality in replying to all correspondents, when there is some sudden rush of business, often depends on the ability of the corresponding clerks to write short letters.

Officials in public departments are often much annoyed by long-conned letters, the substance of which might have been compressed into a tenth part of the space occupied by unnecessary details and repetitions. The writers of such letters may be assured that, although their communications receive the requisite attention, it is accompanied with at least inward growling and uncomplimentary reflections upon the authors of such specimens of prolixity.

Another common fault, and one which causes much confusion and trouble in the different Departments, is the mixing up in the same letter various matters, each of which must be referred to a distinct branch of the Department addressed, and consequently should have formed the subject of a separate communication.

It may be stated as a general rule that the more of a business character a letter has, the more condensed and brief it should be. At any rate, if you have a matter of importance to which you request the attention of your correspondent, do not degrade it to the bottom of the last page, as if it was a casual and trifling affair (unless you have some special reason for so doing); but make it prominent in some way, even should you go so far as to follow the example of the worthy old lady who, in writing to her cousin, closed every paragraph with the refrain, "Remember the stocking-yarn!"

We might touch upon many other points connected with our subject, but consistency warns us to be brief.

To My Mother, in France.

Several years ago, a parcel of letters arrived at Marseilles from Algeria, directed principally to the relatives, sweethearts and wives of the soldiers of the French army then engaged in the conquest of that country. They were soon sorted and dispatched to their various destinations, and the heart of many a Jeannette was made glad by the receipt of a message from her beloved Jean-not, whom the cruel conscription had torn from her unwilling arms; and many a fond parent's bosom swelled with pride as the long expected letter from their brave son told them of his hopes of returning from the wars, his arm ornamented with a sergeant's chevrons, or even—who knows?—his shoulder glittering with the hulsion epaulettes of a *sous lieutenant*. Among these various missives, however, was one the direction of which puzzled the ingenuity of the Marseilles *maitre de poste* and his subordinates. It was addressed simply—

"To my Mother, in France."

As may be imagined, the task of discovering among the thousands of anxious mamma who had sons in the army of Algeria, the particular mamma to whom this epistle was addressed, was one of unusual difficulty, if not of impossibility. It proved too much for the Marseilles official, who enclosed it to the director of the Paris Post Office, stating his inability to forward it to its destination, and leaving to him its future disposition. There, the end seemed justifying the means, the letter was opened, in hope of thereby finding some clue which might lead to the discovery of a more definite address; but it began with "Ma chere Mere," and after several pages of filial love, expressed in very indifferently syntax and orthography, concluded with the signature, "Toujours votre fils devoue, MICHEL."—with-out a single allusion upon which one could found even a guess at the name or residence of the old lady. It seemed a hopeless case, and the letter was about to be consigned to the waste-basket, when, to the surprise of the postmaster, one of the older clerks remarked:

"It appears to me, monsieur, that there is a way to solve this difficulty."

"Pray, how?" inquired his superior, with a shrug of incredulity.

"Monsieur, it is evident that this letter was written by a fool."

"Peste! it seems to me that that is no very startling news."

"Perhaps not—but no matter: it is probable that the mother of this fool is a fool also, is it not?"

"Eh bien! it is not unlikely; but—"

"One moment, monsieur. Which of the Departments of France is notorious as producing the largest number of fools?"

"Everybody knows that it is the Department of L—"

"Well, my advice is that this letter be enclosed to Monsieur de V., the *intendant de poste* of that Department, with instructions to send it to the postmaster of that town in his Department which contains the greatest number of fools—and it is my belief that 'my mother' will receive her letter."

The suggestion was adopted, and, a few days after, the postmaster of the little town of B— received from Monsieur de V. the letter in search of an owner, with an intimation that it was expected that he would deliver it to the party to whom it was addressed, who was supposed, for reasons not necessary to enumerate, to be an inhabitant of B—

"Mortieu!" exclaimed the unfortunate official, scratching his head, "what a job!—to find the mother of the blockhead who wrote this! What a supreme ass! He must be as stupid as that imbecile of a Michel Dupont who went to Algeria with the army last year, and who don't know as much as my cow Mueette. And here comes good old mother Dupont again, to ask for the hundredth time for a letter from Michel, poor stupid old soul!"

"Well, Monsieur, have you no letter for me yet, from my poor Michel?"

"None, my good woman, I'm sorry to say," replied the postmaster; and mother Dupont was turning away in the bitterness of hope deferred, when an idea suddenly occurred to him, and, calling her back, he said: "Stop, perhaps this one is for you?"

"Oh, Heaven bless you, Monsieur—at last! It is that dear Michel's hand-writing; I should know it among a thousand! The dear boy—how careful he has been that I should be sure to get it! 'To my mother, in France.' It is not every son who would have taken such pains! And the simple old woman, weeping with happiness, was soon absorbed in the perusal of her letter."

The postmaster at once addressed an official communication to Monsieur de V., expressing his satisfaction at being able to announce the safe delivery of the letter "to my mother in France."

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

When I commenced these letters to the MAIL, and took upon myself the task of endeavoring to cure some post office disorders, which might not be reached by statute treatment, I did not design or desire to excite the irritability of anybody. To be sure, in my meanderings I saw many things to awaken my displeasure, and for that I desired some vent. I only wrote with the hope that some good would result from this common method of exhibiting pen sketches by type light—and that carelessness and inattention would be kicked out neck and heels by attention and intelligence. As it is, however, I have overheard numerous complaints that I find fault, without making the least allowance for the many annoyances to which post office officials are subjected in the discharge of their duties.

I have no doubt that many have their share of vexations, and pretty good reason to lose their temper occasionally in consequence of the peculiarities of people with whom they have business transactions. A pretty large percentage of those who write letters, either from thoughtlessness or inability write so illegibly, that it is no matter of wonderment that their communications often go astray, or that postmasters are frequently at a loss to decipher hieroglyphics which would puzzle the French *serenats* who originally discovered the meaning of these Egyptian mysteries. Still I cannot help thinking, that less brusqueness and more courtesy would be advisable in officials in this branch of the public service.

"I don't know anything about your letter. Guess it wasn't sent." "You have given more bother than your letters are worth" &c., &c., are answers quite too frequently heard from the post office delivery to expectant outsiders. I take it the post office official is the appointed servant of the public. He is paid to be questioned, perhaps bored by the inquiries of those for whom too often "hope deferred hath made the heart sick."

It is had enough, God knows, to visit day after day the post office in the hope of receiving a letter long expected from some dear one, without being ennobled for the impertinuity of which any one with a heart is often guilty in the course of his or her life; and those through whose hands are transmitted these tidings of woe or woe, those messages that make the heart glad or

overwhelm it with sorrow, should remember, that pleasant words cost nothing, and are often the oil and wine the wounded wayfarer needs so much.

One word further on this point—post office clerks who make themselves conspicuous for politeness, attention to business and kindness, generally rest secure amid the charges incident to our institutions; for they find no difficulty in obtaining effective influence to continue them, when a change of local or general nature occurs.

Take notice of this fact—and be assured your gentlemanly behavior to the community with whom you have official intercourse is capital invested at a good interest.

I am in a fault-finding humor to-day, and while I am in that unenviable state of mind, I may as well mention in passing that I frequently observe pieces of paper attached by a string to mail bags, upon which is written, sometimes with a pen, sometimes with a pencil, the name of the post office for which such bag is intended.

Doubtless it is essential to have bags labelled, but it strikes me that iron, wood, or leather, would be a better substance upon which to write the direction than paper, which is liable to become wet, illegible and detached—and the bag in consequence go wandering about until accidentally or otherwise its proper destination is reached. Of course its mere of my business *ex-officio*, but I had rather not entrust my letters to any office where such a reprehensible, unpardonable custom is tolerated, if I was in a hurry for them to reach my merchant, my factor or my agent—and I imagine there are a good many people in the world who feel in the same way.

I think sometimes that if I could be admitted behind the scenes I should find more than enough to satiate my ill nature, and *penchant* for fault-finding.

Having seen so much in front, behind the curtain I might behold leather and canvas pouches and bags used for broadly different purposes from that for which they were designed, and receiving worse treatment than "the law allows," brass and iron locks lying round dust-covered, and keys appertaining thereto exposed to the reach of every visitor, letters and post bills scattered round the floor like so much worthless rubbish; and the officials engaged in various pursuits which were certainly not contemplated when they were appointed. All this I say I can imagine would be visible were I privileged to step behind the curtain—at present I have no such franchise, but the time may come—and if it does—I'll—but sufficient for the day, &c.

Truly yours, MONSIEUR TONSON.

"Old Gray's" Elegy.

We copy from the *Morristown Jerseyman* the following touching tribute to the memory of a faithful and well-known attaché of the postal service in that town, recently deceased:

One of our "eldest inhabitants" has passed away. That faithful quondam known as "Old Gray" departed this life on Saturday of last week, at an uncertain age. For twelve or fifteen years, his trips between the Post Office and the Depot, four times a day, have been as regular as the coming of the cars. His appearance on top of the hill was as anxiously awaited as the morning papers, and was the signal for a grand collection around the door of the office. There was no mistaking him—distinguished as he was above his fellows by the sleekness of his coat and the roundness of his form. We have heard it basely insinuated that his death was occasioned by experimenting to ascertain the smallest quantity of hy and oats that would sustain life. This cannot be, however. We have good reasons for supposing that the changes in the time table and the new arrangements of the Morris & Essex Railroad had much to do with it. He believed in promptness, and understood the hours under the old arrangements. The striking of the clock at 8 was notice to him that the time was up, and mail or no mail, driver or no driver, he started on the instant for the Depot. But the change to an earlier hour, made some two months ago, confused him. He could not get accustomed to it. And so with reference to the irregularities in the arrival of the mail latterly. His countenance, always thoughtful, became still more so, and, moribund and disgusted, pensive and sad, he failed day by day, and has now gone to that hourne from which no horse-flesh ever returns. Peace to his ashes!

The following "In Memoriam" we copy from the *Banner*. It is from the pen of our Post Laureate, and is one of the cleverest things he has lately given to the public.

OLD GRAY.

A contract once U. Sam proposed, and then Shook sets upon a bid from Uncle Ben. The 8th Ward Mail was thence three times per day. The steady occupation of Old Gray. No absent time, the weather foul or fine; No failure on the contract, rain or shine. At starting, Gray was always on the spot; Was rough and ready, mail-bag so or not. A Frenchman's dog was now and then; When lone oats was almost his constant feed; His time was two hours forty—sometimes more; He never broke a trot, nor jumped the score. In frame, quite tall; in hue, invisible white; In disposition, prone to kick and bite; But few as friends, he seemed inclined to greet; His frame of mind was anyrump but sweet. His skin seemed grown upon his carcass feet; And tight as leather draws upon a last. He plucked at home, none ever heard him neigh—He, during search—while they start off without it. The leaves that fluttered in the summer breeze; Ripped from the well-grown trees around the park. His teeth have watered many a time in bark; And as for food upon a hunt for hay. A Frenchman's dog was now and then; Full many a cock from wagons unprotected. Has gone down Old Gray's stomach unexpectad. He, during search—while they start off without it. Saying in his looks—I don't know nothing 'bout it. Gravely, he seemed upon his life's decline; And on his third decade, 'bout twenty-nine.

Past autumn all sad problems would propose— Would spring his nostrils or his waddie eyes? Old Gray himself felt sensibly hemmed in, And cornered, in these hungry realms of sin. To one dread hour he thus consigned his loss— "Cold Weather, Age, Starvation, and the Crows," Yet, no one symptom was there to portend That poor Old Gray was at his latter end. He brought the mail, as wont, at starboard, Went home, and smelt around for hay, and died. Upon the spot his four wheeled cart was found On Monday morning, thills upon the ground. The lettering on its side, of U. S. M.— If friends be had,—can be ascribed to them. Also, a mail-bag in black display, Inscribed upon, "In memory of Old Gray." To this was hung a vessel thick and short, Filled out of glass to hold about a quart. This was the symbol of the Italian horse; Every single drop of life sucked out of course. And there was soon a loveliness in death By some, that parts not quite with parting breath. Those wheels are still; no more their boxes rub The rusty axle to the wasted hub. Their constancy must now forever cease, But, not for want of loyalty, or grace. Old Gray has gone a-bare foot to his glory. And that's the ultimatum of the story.

Post Office Blanks.

EDITOR MAIL:—I notice that a change in blanks for post office use is the order of the day. The distribution posthills come to hand with the position of the "unpaid" and "paid distributed" matter reversed—a change which probably has some advantages to recommend it, or it would not have been made, but which certainly for the present hinders transcript and D. F. O. mailing clerks. The "accounts of mails received" are also remodelled. This being the course of events, it occurs to me to suggest a change which would be an improvement, viz., to strike out from the posthills and the accounts of "mails sent" and "mails received" the "paid in money" column, devoting the space thus gained on the "mails sent" blank to widening the columns allotted to "offices where sent" and "number of letters sent." Such a change would be consistent with section 90 of the Regulations (ed. of 1859), by which prepayment in money is prohibited; would take away the pretext sometimes claimed by "one horse" offices that the Department, by printing each a column in its blanks, intends to allow prepayment in money; would induce officials of such offices to be more prompt in keeping up the supply of stamps, and by decreasing the size, would diminish the expense of posthills.

But, it is objected, suppose a reasonable supply of stamps fails to be received, what then? Shall not the public be permitted to mail their letters because a negligent postmaster has suffered his supply of stamps to become exhausted? I reply: The public must certainly not be subjected to the inconvenience. Let the postmaster be held responsible for the "paid in money" column, or, if not, "purchase temporary supplies from the nearest office for cash," as directed by section 381 of the same Regulations.

Briefly, then, I see no disadvantage to result to the Department by adopting the amendment (may I not add, improvement) suggested, while the room gained on the "paid in money" will be of substantial advantage and convenience to the MAILING CLERK.

The postmaster at an office paying \$1,200 per year (gross proceeds) desires some information, and accordingly writes:

"I will again call your Attention, to the Stampes which are out of yonse & Laying on hands for some time & att Each quarter they are to be Counted over again & Ites sum Trouhell & cof." The "& cof" is good!

Letter Addresses.

I am a soldier, that I am, In the service of the War; I am dead broke, as you may see By the way this letter goes from me. Send this, if you think it meet, To three hundred and forty-three twenty-ninth street; And my word you have as hostage "Mails sent" will be of substantial advantage and convenience to the MAILING CLERK.

ACROSTIC LETTER ADDRESS. On "wings of love" to Zanesville by—nor stay, Here loitering—but westward take thy way I'm eager haste, and then Widney's mansion reached forsooth. Oh drop thee down at the feet of Ruth.

Shakespeare wrote well, Dickens wrote "The War"; All the magicians are h—l, But the greatest R. Heller, No. 17 East 12th St., N. Y.

Now send me along at a furious rate, To the County of Hampshire, in the noble Bay State, In the Office at Enfield, to rest, I desire, Till Perus P. Packard for me shall enquire.

The following was endorsed on an envelope passing through the Philadelphia P. O.: "Now mail robber steal this letter: One you stole, and here's one better, Though it may prove worse for you. Here's money sent for one who's sick, If you can do so mean a trick, Why then, just steal this too. Windfield."

Will Uncle Samuel bear in mind That Peggy Harvey's he will find In Northern end of Sucker State, Sleeping early, rising late, Making better with great care, Breathing damp Chicago air. If recollection has not blundered, She kicks the bean at just two hundred. You'll know her, Uncle, in a minute, Or else my word has no truth in it. P. S.—Box (number) 24 (times).

Mr. James R. Ross, Esq.—Rochester I think in New York somewhere Mr. Post Master will say, pntt this litcher into James Ross' box if he has on it if he has msn spake to him the first time ye spye him Mr. Post Master & spake to him off of this litcher, Now Mr. Post Master I think this James Ross lives near Mr. O'Flanagan house & not far from the Priest Honore Mr. Post Master will ye be after giving him this litcher & I will do as much for you. Mr. Post Master this James works on the Rail way & I think Saturday night he may be after coming home to see Bridget for she is Develish sick, after having a bad Brest, if Bridget calls to get this Litcher Mr. Post Master give it to her & you will oblige me Mr. Post Master, I fear James Aldiest Schold will kick the bucket he has got the sunels they call. I think & they say it is a mitey wormey child as ye ever seed. I hop ye will do all ye can to let James Ross have this litcher Your Friend Patrick Ryne.



J. HOLBROOK, Editor and Proprietor.

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1864.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, }
October 25, 1861. }

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

[OFFICIAL.]

Discontinuance of the Inspection Office.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, }
Washington, March 3, 1864. }

Being satisfied that the duties of supervising and inspecting the performance of mail service, now done under direction of the Chief Clerk, can be better and more efficiently performed in the Central Office, it is

Ordered, That the Inspection Office, as such, be dispensed with, and that the duties of supervision and inspection of mail service of all kinds, including contractors, carriers, messengers and agents, of every description, be transferred to the Central Office, under the direction and charge of the Second Assistant Postmaster-General; and for the performance of these additional duties the whole force of clerks, and the messenger now employed in the Inspection Office, be transferred to him, to be employed in said business.

The supervising and inspection duties thus assigned to the Central Office and to be performed by the Clerk of the Inspection Office, are, receiving and examining registers of the departures and arrivals of the mails, report of mail failures, noting the delinquencies of contractors, agents, and messengers, preparing cases thereon for the advice of the Postmaster-General, conducting correspondence in relation to complaints against contractors, carriers, agents, and messengers, and receiving and examining certificates of the service of the Route Agents and baggage-masters in charge of mails, and making the necessary report to the Auditor for their payment.

This assignment of duties to the Central Office also includes furnishing blanks for mail registers and report of mail failures; providing and sending out mail-bags, locks and keys, and doing all other things which may be necessary to secure a faithful and exact performance of mail service, and in like manner the supervision of Special Agents and others engaged in the arrangement of mail service, the detection of mail depredations or violations of law by private expressors, or by the forgery or illegal use of postage stamps, are transferred and placed in charge of the Central Office.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster General.

The following supplementary order on this subject has also been issued:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, }
Washington, March 3, 1864. }

It is hereby ordered, that, from this date, the Inspection Office of the Department, in its distinct and separate form, be dispensed with, and its duties transferred to and merged in those of the Central Office, in charge of the Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

Postmasters, special agents, local agents, route agents, and others having correspondence with the Department on the following subjects, will please take notice of this change, and address communications to the Second Assistant Postmaster-General, viz.:

Those from postmasters, special agents, and others, in reference to the arrangement, change, and improvement of mail service; putting service under contract; the days and hours of the departure and arrival of mails; the distribution and separation of mails; applications for mail bags, mail locks and keys, and generally all matters touching the establishment and regulation of mails, marked CONTRACT OFFICE.

Reports of depredations on the mails; of the loss of letters and postage stamps; registers of the departures and arrivals of mails; reports of mail failures and delinquencies of contractors, carriers, and others having the care and custody of mails; certificates of the service of route agents; applications for mail registers; monthly reports of special agents, and their reports of proceedings on cases of mail depredations submitted to them for investigation, marked CONTRACT OFFICE, INSPECTION DIVISION.

M. BLAIR,
Postmaster-General.

SIR ROWLAND HILL, as we learn from late English papers, has resigned the position, which he has held for the last twenty-seven years, of Secretary of the British Post Office Department. We shall refer to the matter at more length in our next.

The Box and Carrier Systems.

The law providing for the free delivery of letters by carriers at the houses or places of business of the persons addressed, contemplates a curtailment of the deliveries from private boxes. This latter mode is popular, especially with merchants and other business men, and may not be suddenly changed. They regard it as a necessary appendage to every large post office, and in the estimation of many, the withdrawal of boxes would be tantamount to stopping the mails. This feeling has naturally grown out of long habit instead of waiting hour after hour for a post office carrier, and then paying him a certain fee on each letter and paper, as under the old law or, still worse, instead of mingling with the crowd, and taking turns at the general delivery window, it was convenient and comfortable for a merchant to send a messenger, who could, by tapping in a special window, command the attention of the box-clerk, and immediately obtain his employer's mail. This operation could be repeated on the arrival of every mail, and a man would only have to ask for what he might see in the box.

Such is the main argument in favor of private boxes. The holders can go or send as often as they please, and get whatever may appear in the boxes, without unnecessary delay. Another argument, however, is that the security of letters is thus promoted. A merchant is constantly expecting money letters, and he hesitates to trust them to the care of common carriers. He wants them by the hands of his trusty clerk or errand boy, or porter—persons known and responsible to him, and in whom he has confidence. Again: the letters and papers being set apart so conveniently and exclusively, the box-holder feels assured that none have been overlooked, but that his full number is there without mistake. Such reasons may have had force in old times, when there were but few carriers and few private box holders, compared with the present number. But let us look at facts as they now exist under the new laws, and the vastly-increased number of boxes.

First, the force of carriers is such, that letters are delivered regularly four times each day from the larger offices—in New York, five times, and at least three deliveries being within the usual business hours. Thus a person may be sure of receiving letters without the trouble of sending, for them.

But it is claimed that there is a lack of security about these common carriers. A merchant has not the same assurance of receiving his valuable letters as if he sends his own messenger for them. This is a favorite idea, but it is utterly fallacious. What are the facts? The records of the Post Office show more robberies by these special messengers than by letter carriers or clerks. Moreover, it must be remembered that a letter carrier, being a sworn officer, under the Post Office law, if he steals, is guilty of felony, and is sent to the penitentiary. Private messengers have frequently been detected in stealing, and employers in this city can testify to the fact, and in the further fact that they have not been punished.

The other reason in favor of private boxes, that the assortment of letters into them prevents mistakes, is founded on the ignorance of the inside working of a large Post Office; a few figures will show how difficult it is (and indeed next to an impossibility) to avoid mistakes in boxing letters.

In the New York office there are in use nearly 6,000 private boxes, and a proportionate number in other large offices. Now, what with the several names making up a firm, the names of employees or even individual members of a man's family, the whole list of names connected with these boxes in the New York office, is swelled nearly 30,000. It is not reasonable to assert that human memory will grasp these 30,000 names so that each particular letter shall certainly find its appropriate place. The assortment is hurried; the mails are often behind time; applicants wait outside, there is no time to examine lists of names. The clerk relies on his memory, and the only wonder is that so few mistakes occur. After years of learning a man masters this work in a wonderful degree, and it is done perhaps as perfectly as possible. Sometimes they are discovered when handing out the letters. Letters for A, are found in B's box. The mistakes are then corrected, but if A has happened to call before B, his misplaced letters are delayed, and he is none the wiser in calling the second time. But it may happen that a letter is handed in the wrong party, and then the temptation to the messenger to steal is great. A dishonest person, under such circumstances, will be quick to seize his opportunity, much less of detection in the case.

It thus seems evident that the public can be really better accommodated without these private boxes than with them, and it is the settled policy of the Department by all means to discourage their use.

Letters being directed to a particular street and number, and the city divided as it is into carriers' districts, the work of assorting is simplified, and deliveries will be made with regularity, safety, and dispatch, free of charge for carrying, at the houses of the owners.

To Our Subscribers.

We find that we have not received returns from a large proportion of our bills for the "Mail" for the current year, which were sent in the December number. We trust our subscribers will not forget this duty, as the amount on each was due in October last, according to our terms.

It is a good deal of labor to make out duplicate bills, which we shall have to do, or publish a list of the delinquent post-offices as the only means of notifying them of that which they have evidently forgotten or overlooked. We would notify each by letter, were it not for the aggregate expense of such a plan; but we trust that this notice to delinquents will prove sufficient.

Important Change.

It will be seen by the order of the Department which we publish in another column, that the Postmaster General has decided to discontinue that branch of the Department heretofore known as the Inspection Office, and to transfer its duties together with the clerical force connected with it, to the charge and supervision of Gen. W. McClellan, Esq., the able Second Assistant Postmaster General. We entirely approve the wisdom of Judge Blair's action in this matter, and feel quite sure that the Department will be greatly benefited by the consolidation of the two heretofore distinct bureaus, and that the special matters which were formerly attended to in the Inspection Office will be managed with ability and discretion.

Postmasters will take notice that correspondence which has hitherto been addressed to the Chief Clerk or to the Inspection Office, should now be addressed to "Geo. W. McClellan, Esq., 2d Assistant Postmaster General."

Retirement of Wm. B. Taylor, Esq.

On the first inst., our old friend WILLIAM B. TAYLOR, Esq., who, for the last forty-nine years, has been connected with the postal service, resigned his position as Assistant Postmaster at New York, for the purpose of engaging in the stock commission business on his own account in that city. Mr. Taylor was appointed a clerk in the post office of New Brunswick, N. J., in 1815, under the administration of President Madison, and in 1819 removed to this city and accepted the post of junior clerk in the post office here. At that time, Gen. Theodoros Bailey was postmaster, and the whole force of the establishment consisted of six clerks and as many carriers, which was then an amply sufficient number! The office was then located in Garden St., (now Exchange Place,) and during Mr. Taylor's connection with it, was successively removed to a school-house, also in Garden St., to the basement of the old Exchange, destroyed by fire in 1835,—to the Rotunda in the Park—and finally to its present location. Gen. Bailey died in 1827, and was succeeded by Samuel L. Gouverneur, under whom Mr. Taylor was Assistant P. M. and to him succeeded Jonathan I. Coddington, Jno. L. Graham, Robert H. Morris, Wm. V. Brady, Isaac V. Fowler, and John A. Dix. Upon Gen. Dix's retirement, Mr. Taylor was appointed Postmaster, which office he held for about fifteen months, at the end of which time the present incumbent, Abram Wakeman, Esq., was appointed. Mr. Taylor, under all these changes, has deserved and received the respect and esteem not only of his official associates, but also of the entire mercantile community and the general public, whose postal interests he has so long and faithfully served, and we are sure that with the universally expressed regret at his retirement is mingled a sincere hope that he may, in his new vocation, meet with the fullest success—a result sure to follow if he exerts, in his own behalf, the same zeal and energy which he has displayed in the public service.

On the 31st ult., Postmaster Wakeman, and the heads of the various departments of the office, joined in presenting Mr. T. with a costly and beautiful "Jurgensen" watch "as a token of affectionate esteem," and we trust it will serve to mark very many happy hours for its worthy possessor.

James P. Rogers, Esq., has been appointed as Assistant P. M., in place of Mr. Taylor.

Travelling Post Offices.

We understand that the Department has now under consideration a plan for the establishment, on the principal railroad routes, of "post-office cars," in which letters for offices at the termini, and on the line of the road, may be assorted, and mails made up, in transit. This is in addition to the duty now performed by "way route agents" of making up pouches for those offices. This system has been in operation in Great Britain for several years past, and we have no doubt that its introduction here will do much to increase our mail facilities. Among other advantages which will be thereby secured, is one which will be duly appreciated by the merchants and other inhabitants of our large cities—namely, the sorting of their letters on the cars, which will ensure their delivery at an earlier hour, by saving the time which would necessarily be consumed in sorting them after their arrival at the post office, as is now done. Large and commodious cars, fitted with every convenience for the operations of the clerks appointed for duty in this branch of the service, will be placed on the "through" trains. We hope soon to be enabled to publish full details of this contemplated improvement, and are long to see it in practical and successful operation. Hon. A. N. Zeveloff, Third Assistant P. M. General, is now, we understand, engaged in supervising the preliminary steps for its introduction.

SAY A WORD FOR US.—Many of our subscribers, who are postmasters, add to their official duties (like ourselves) those of an editorial nature, and most others are influential with the local press. To all such we would feel greatly obliged if they would cause to be inserted a brief notice of the U. S. Mail and P. O. Assistant, stating its aims and objects, and also (if it can conscientiously be done) recommending it to the patronage of postmasters and others. Several of our friends have done us this favor, for which we feel duly grateful, and trust that their example may be followed by those who have the opportunity.

We have received from our friends of the San Francisco post office a copy of the Evening Journal of that city, containing a three column list of all post offices established up to 1st January in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington and Idaho Territories. Though it might perhaps be found rather dry reading, it speaks eloquently of the rapid westward progress of the "star of empire."

Depredation Cases.

On the 10th ult., Special Agent S. B. Row arrested Dr. W. B. Thompson, of Laceyville, Wyoming Co., Pa., for pilfering letters from the mail on route between Tushannock, Wyoming Co., and Wyalising, Bradford Co., Pa.

The evidence against him seems to be conclusive, as about 12 marked bills were found on his person when arrested as well as a decoy letter.

His office was in the same room in which the post-office at Laceyville was kept, and he was in the habit of assisting the Postmaster in distributing the mail; it was then that he detained the packages and afterwards rifled them.

He has a good living practice in his profession, and was married into one of the wealthiest families in the county. He had a hearing at Williamsport on Friday last, \$5000 bail being asked by the Commissioner.

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS.—On the 22d instant, three boys were arrested at Newark, N. J., on a charge of wrongfully obtaining letters from the post-office at that place by fraud and deception. It appears that they had by some means obtained the name of one of the box holders; and one of the gang, by representing himself to be in his employ, succeeded in persuading one of the clerks to deliver the contents of the box. This operation was effected several times during a fortnight, the ringleader sharing the plunder with three accomplices, one of whom is still at large, but will soon be arrested. They have been sent to jail at Trenton, to await trial.

CHARLES MEES, late Superintendent at Station D, New York, whose arrest for mail robbery was noticed in our last, has, on examination, been fully committed by U. S. Commissioner Betts for trial.

TERRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—DESTRUCTION OF MAILS.—At about 10 o'clock on the evening of March 10th, a serious accident occurred on the Cleveland and Toledo Railroad, at Bellevue, Ohio, by which the baggage-master, Wm. Allen, and his brother Joseph, together with an infant, lost their lives. The mishap was the result of the displacement of a switch, by which the engine and several of the cars were destroyed. The ruins took fire almost immediately from the stoves in the broken cars, and the whole were soon consumed; almost nothing of the contents of the baggage-cars being saved. The grain-house nearby also took fire, and was destroyed with all its contents.

The baggage and the mails were almost entirely destroyed.

The following list of the letter-bags lost is kindly furnished by Mr. W. H. Atwill, local mail agent at Toledo:

Toledo, 5; Chicago, 4; Dubuque, 1; Galena, 1; St. Joseph, Mo., 3; San Francisco, 1; Sacramento, 1; Quincy, Ill., 2; Springfield, Ill., 2; Cairo, 2; St. Paul, Minn., 1; Denver, 1; Logansport and Peoria Agent, 1; Defiance, 1; Air Line Agent, 1; Dayton and Michigan Agent, 1; Perryburg, 1; Bryan, 1; Rockford, Ill., 1; total 31. The Toledo bags lost were from New York, Buffalo, Wheeling, Boston, and Cleveland. The bulk of the mail destroyed was from New York, Buffalo and Cleveland. In addition to the above list of letter-bags, there was a large number of paper-bags, nearly 100, all of which were lost. The accident was probably the work of some fiend, who, to gratify some grudge, chose to doom the lives and property of hundreds of innocent people to terrible danger or certain destruction.

DISTRIBUTING CIRCULARS.—Since the increase in the rate of postage on circulars, certain firms, in New York and elsewhere, anxious to make their business known through the mails, but unwilling to pay the charge established by law, are in the habit of enclosing three circulars in an envelope addressed to the postmaster of the place which they wish them to reach, with a printed request on the outside of the envelope, that the postmaster will place each of the three circulars in the box of some person likely to be interested in its contents. It should be understood that postmasters are under no obligation to comply with this request. The circulars, being addressed to the Postmaster, have reached the destination to which the postage is paid when they come into his hands, and if placed in a box by him are then chargeable with four cents each, as unpaid drop letters. Of course, if the holders of the boxes refuse to pay that amount, the circulars must be treated as provided in Instruction 9, under the law of last July. In reference to refused printed matter. Under no circumstances should a postmaster encourage the evasion of the law and a fraud on the Department by delivering them free.

An article in our last, copied from one of our exchanges, in relation to a "letter-box" said to have been kept in a Catholic church in Santiago, South America, for the purpose of receiving the written prayers of the congregation, has given offence to some of our subscribers who profess the Catholic faith. We need not say that we desire to avoid even the appearance of sectarianism in our columns, and the article in question was inserted under the impression, which the writer of it evidently intended to convey, that the practice alluded to was confined to the particular church mentioned; which an esteemed subscriber, a clergyman of the Catholic church, assures us is not the case, and that the custom of depositing written requests for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin is one that obtains among all Catholic worshippers. We had no intention of ridiculing the belief or practice of any denomination of Christians, and regret that we should have even seemed to do so.

RESIGNATION.—Wm. A. Bryan, Esq., late Chief Clerk of the Department, resigned that position about the last of February, on account of ill health.

COMMUNICATIONS.

P. O., B., N. Y.

Editor U. S. Mail:

Can a newspaper publisher have his papers delivered from the P. O. to his subscribers in the place where the paper is published free of postage? For instance, there are two weekly papers published in this place, and together they leave 120 papers a week for me to deliver to their subscribers. I have seen a statement that the P. M. in New York charges two cents on each paper when so left.

I suppose the free delivery of papers in the county where published, to be intended to apply to those only which go from one place to another by mail in the same county, and not to refer to those directly sent from the office of publication to the P. O. to be delivered.

Please give me an answer.

Respectfully yours,
M. L. W., P. M.

Postmasters are not required to receive from publishers, newspapers printed in the city, town, or village where the post-office is kept, and deliver them to subscribers calling for them. The right to circulate weekly newspapers free of postage, within the county where printed and published, does not impose on postmasters the duty of receiving and delivering papers which do not go into the mail; and where a publisher seeks to throw upon the postmaster the labor of delivering his papers, and for the purpose of relieving himself from the expense of their delivery, the P. M. will be justified in refusing to deliver them. He should in such cases inform the publisher of his determination not to receive such papers.

Editor U. S. Mail:

Please advise us to the proper method of forwarding registered letters. Is it sufficient to enter upon the registered letter receipt book, "Forwarded as per order of—Instant," and then to forward like an unregistered letter, thus defeating the intent of the sender, or should a new registry and postage fee be required as preliminary to forwarding? I see no middle course, inasmuch as it is not allowed by the Department to register without prepayment of registry fee, or to mail registered letters where postage is either unpaid or insufficiently paid.

Under the 30th section of the new law, all letters directed to persons not found at the office addressed, may be forwarded to any other office where they may be found, charged with the additional postage at the prepaid rates, for forwarding.

In the case of a registered letter, the request to forward must be written by the party entitled to receive it. The particular letter to be forwarded should be so clearly specified in the order to forward, as to leave no doubt as to its identity. The order to forward should be noted on the registry book, opposite to the name of the person making the request. The letter should then be rated up with the ordinary rate of postage for forwarding, and the original "registry fee" is to be regarded as sufficient payment to entitle the letter to be remailed as a registered letter. The order to forward must be filed in the office forwarding, as a voucher for the action had in the case.

Editor U. S. Mail:

Please answer, through your paper, the following question:

Can the Assist. P. M., in the necessary absence of the P. M., render the quarterly returns and take the oath, under the new law? If so, must he insert his own name, or that of the P. M.?

Yours,
P. M.

In making quarterly returns, the sworn statement required by section 6 of the new law should be prepared over the signature of the Postmaster, and all official communications from his office should be signed with his own name in person. In the event of the unavoidable absence of the Postmaster, the person in charge of the office may take the required oath, and sign the papers with his own name as Acting Postmaster.

POST OFFICE, INDIANA.

Editor U. S. Mail:

Please answer the following question through your paper:

Are not contractors on river routes obliged to furnish mails by some conveyance when the river is so obstructed as to prevent their boats running as usual?

Yours respectfully,
W. D. G., Assist. P. M.

No—unless specially so stipulated in the contract.

REVENUE STAMPS ON LETTERS.—It would seem that some portion of the public are not yet sufficiently familiarized with the revenue stamps which have been introduced within the last two years, to have a correct understanding of the uses to which they are confined, as letters are constantly passing through the mails with revenue stamps attached, with the apparent purpose of thereby prepaying the postage. It is, perhaps, scarcely necessary, for us to say that revenue stamps can in no case be recognized as paying postage; and when they are, through ignorance or carelessness, attached to letters or other matter passing through the mails, postmasters should treat such matter as wholly unpaid, charge it with double rates, to be collected on delivery, leave the revenue stamps uncancelled, and forward to destination.

LAWYERS' LICENSE.—A correspondent, who was a witness on the part of the Government in a recent trial for mail robbery, asks us if there is not a limit to the scurrilous abuse in which some counsel for the prisoner often allow themselves to indulge, in regard to those whose duty it is to give evidence for the prosecution. We fear that there is no remedy to meet such cases, and we think that our friend is over-sensitive in the matter. The greasy slang of unscrupulous Old Bailey practitioners, and other exorcismes on the legal profession, only strays a lack of good taste and common decency on the part of those who utter it, and never yet damaged the character of an honest witness, nor affected the verdict of an intelligent jury.

The quarterly account current of a postmaster does not need a revenue stamp when sent to the Department.

UNITED STATES MAIL

Miscellaneous Information

Army Correspondence. Letters from all soldiers in the army, below the rank of a commissioned officer, may be sent through the mails without prepayment...

(In case coin is not offered) is marked on each letter on its arrival at U. S. Exchange Offices, and is charged in the post-bills. Hence, when coin is collected at the office of delivery, the difference should be entered in the account of Mails Received as an overcharge.

The above applies exclusively to the mails received from the countries mentioned. On out-going letters the former regulations remain unchanged, and, when prepaid, the regular rates only are to be collected.

United States Exchange Offices for Foreign Mails

New York is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian, Belgian, Bremen and Hamburg Mails. Boston is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian and Belgian Mails.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of March:

Table with columns: POST OFFICE, COUNTY, STATE, ROUTE. Lists various post offices across different states like Alabama, Arkansas, California, etc.

DISCONTINUED.

[In the annexed List will be found added, the names of the nearest offices to which matter for those having been discontinued, should be sent.]

Table with columns: NAME, COUNTY & STATE, NEAREST OFFICE. Lists discontinued post offices and their nearest alternatives.

NAMES CHANGED.

Blue Ball, Cecil, Md., to Lombardville. Blue Ball, Cecil, Md., to Silver Creek. Curtis, Madison, Ind., to Florida.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Davenport, Scott, Iowa, Edward Russell. Jolie, Will, Ill., Horatio N. Marsh.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Black Fox, Clarion, Pa. Mrs. Jemima Miller. Greenwood, Johnson, Ind. Mrs. Elizabeth McQuire.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid), excepting those written by officers of the government, addressed to the department with which they are connected, and on official business, to be prepaid by the sender.

All drop letters must be prepaid, at the rate of two cents per half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, by postage stamps. If not prepaid, the double rate is charged.

The single rate of postage on all domestic mail letters throughout the United States is three cents per half ounce, with an additional rate of three cents for each additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce.

For any distance not over 3,000 miles, 10 cts. For any distance over 3,000 miles, 15 "

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever.

Photographs on cards, paper, and other flexible material, (not in cases or albums,) can be sent at the same rate as mailed letters, provided they are not over six inches in length and four in width.

Photographic Albums are not, properly considered, "mailable matter," and when sent in the mails they are subject to letter rates of postage to be prepaid by stamp.

Postmasters are authorized to pay for each letter addressed to the United States by any sea-going vessel from a foreign port, (not carrying the mail,) two cents, and for a letter addressed to the United States brought by any vessel on inland waters, (not carrying the mail,) or brought coastwise from one domestic port to another, one cent; but to each letter carried to such payover the letters must be promptly delivered to the post office upon arrival.

Postage on Daily Papers to subscribers. For each copy of paper in advance, 35 cts. Six times per week, " 30 "

For the Post-Office, for special instructions, in the First Assistant Postmaster General.

Postage on Newspapers and Periodicals. Published less frequently than once a week, sent by mail, not over 12 cts. Semi-monthly, not over 4 cts.

Postage on Transient Printed Matter. Books, not over 4 oz. in weight, to one address, 4 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 8 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 12 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 16 cts.

Exchange Offices for British North America. New York, Boston, Albany, Troy and Portland exchange with some of the largest offices on the other side by through bags.

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Time of Closing Mails at the New York Post Office.

Table listing closing times for various mail services: East Mail (5:00 A.M.), Erie Mail (3:15 A.M.), Freehold and Keyport (5:30 P.M.), Long Island (5:00 A.M.), Newport and Fall River (2:00 P.M.), New York Central R.R. (3:00 P.M.), North Mail (2:00 P.M.), South (5:30 A.M.), On Saturdays all made close at 1 1/2 P.M.

Mails are Due at New York Post Office.

Table listing mail arrival times: North-Due 6:30 A.M.; South-Due 5:22 and 6:52 A.M.; East-Due 9:00 and 10:40 P.M.; West-Due 1:15, 2:30 and 10:40 P.M.

Post Office Hours.

The post office opens at 7:30 A.M., and closes at 6:30 P.M. A night clerk is in attendance for the delivery of letters, when called for at any hour of the night.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

1. TO OR FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MAILES.—Newspapers two cents each without regard to weight; pamphlets and periodicals, two cents each if not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if exceeding two ounces.

2. TO OR FROM FRANCE, ALGERIA, OR IN FRENCH MAIL, OR VIA ENGLAND.—Newspapers, periodicals, books, and other printed matter, addressed to France, Algeria, or cities of Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, in the Prussian closed mail, are chargeable with postage of one ounce or fraction of an ounce, and all other kinds of printed matter, are subject to letter rate of postage.

3. TO OR FROM THE GERMAN-AUSTRIAN POSTAL UNION.—Newspapers, periodicals, books, and other printed matter, addressed to the Prussian closed mail, are chargeable with postage of six cents each, preparation compulsory, being in full to destination to any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union.

4. TO OR FROM GERMANY, VIA BREMEN OR HAMBURG MAIL.—Newspapers sent from the United States by the Bremen or Hamburg line, three cents each; preparation required. This rate to any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union.

5. TO BELGIUM, IN THE UNITED STATES AND BELGIUM POSTAGE ONLY.—Newspapers, gazettes and periodical works: Five cents for each package, the weight of which shall not exceed three ounces, and an additional rate of five cents for each additional weight of three ounces or fraction of three ounces.

6. TO THE WEST INDIA ISLANDS, (NOT BRITISH), EXCEPT CUBA, CENTRAL AMERICA, (EXCEPT AUSTRIA, WALL AND PANAMA), AND THE PACIFIC COAST, IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MAILES.—Newspapers sent, six cents each; preparation required. On papers received the rate to be collected is two cents only, the British postage being prepaid.

MONS OF INDICATING THE PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE UPON LETTERS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES. When the United States office postage entries on the letters received from Great Britain or the Continent of Europe, are in red ink, the letter is to be considered as paid, and is to be delivered accordingly; when in black ink, as unpaid, and the postage is to be collected on delivery of the post on such letters is either wholly paid, or wholly unpaid.

ADVERTISEMENTS. CHARLES W. BAKER, MANUFACTURER OF MACHINE-MADE ENVELOPES, No. 29 Beekman St., New York.

THE POSTMISTRESS, a beautiful Engraving on Steel, copied from the celebrated Painting by Richter. A splendid and appropriate Ornament for the Post Office or Parlor.

IMPORTANT TABLE, SHOWING THE DIFFERENCE IN ROUTES, THE REQUIRED, AND DATES OF DEPARTURE FROM AND ARRIVAL AT LONDON, OF CHINA AND INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND OTHER MAILS.

Table with columns: Mail for the above offices are dispatched from New York and Boston, Routes of Transmittal, Date of Departure, Date of Arrival.

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UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letter.

Postage on Printed Matter.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letter.

Postage on Printed Matter.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letter.

Postage on Printed Matter.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letter.

Postage on Printed Matter.

TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES, N. Brunswick, Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, & Nova Scotia. To Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island, the U. S. postage is 5 cents the single rate, to be prepaid. The inland rate is collected on delivery. On newspapers by this route, the postage is two cents each.

Newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and sent to regular subscribers in the British North American Provinces, or published in those Provinces and sent to regular subscribers in the United States, are chargeable with the regular prepaid quarterly rates of United States postage to and from the line; which postage must be collected at the office of mailing in the United States on matter sent, and at the office of delivery in the United States on matter received. In like manner, such matter, if transient, is chargeable with the regular domestic transient matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States, as the case may be. Editors, however, may exchange free of charge.

Letters received from Canada, to which are affixed uncancelled United States postage stamps of sufficient value to prepay the full postage chargeable thereon, should be delivered without change by the United States office.

REGISTRATION OF LETTERS.
Valuable letters for Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen or Hamburg line via New York, or by the Prussian closed mail via New York and Boston, or also letters addressed to Great Britain and Canada, will be registered on the application of the person posting the same, in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States, provided that the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with an additional fee of five cents on each letter to Great Britain or Ireland, and five cents on each letter to the other places mentioned above, is prepaid at the mailing office. Such letters should be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS, ETC.
All letters to and from foreign countries (the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, France and the British North American Provinces excepted), are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of half an ounce; double rate, if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding one ounce; quadruple rate, if exceeding an ounce, but not exceeding two ounces; and so on, charging two rates for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce over the first ounce. As this rule differs from that followed in respect to domestic letters, great care is requisite to prevent mistakes. Letters in the mail to France, are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of one quarter ounce; double rate, if exceeding a quarter, but not exceeding half an ounce; and so on, at additional rate being charged for each quarter ounce or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Letters addressed to the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, and the British North American Provinces, are rated in the same manner as domestic letters, except that for each half ounce or fractional part of half an ounce, Postmasters should be careful, where the postage is prepaid, to collect the proper amount. They should be careful to notice the route indicated on the envelopes of letters, and to collect postage accordingly. Letters mailed at some offices, marked "via England," or "via Prussian closed mail," for a German State, are frequently taken upon the prepayment of Bremen rates, and those marked "via Bremen," at Prussian closed rates, &c.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS GOING VIA FRANCE
In the case of letters to be forwarded in the British mail for transmission from England via "Marseilles," the French postage is rated at cents the quarter ounce, except on letters for Java, China, Labuan, Horno, Japan, the Moluccas and Philippine Islands, which are rated at eight cents per half ounce, and except, also, on letters for Syria and Tunis, where the postage is charged at the single French rate of 12 cents per quarter ounce. The rates by "French mail" are in full to destination, except to the following places, viz: Aden, Batavia, Bencoolen, China, cities of Turkey, in Europe, except as herein mentioned, via Austria, countries to which correspondence can be sent via Suez, countries beyond seas, via France, other than those enumerated, East Indies, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, India, Mauritius, Montenegro, Penang, Portugal, Isle of Re-Union, Serbia, except Belgrade, Shanghai, Singapore and Spain. The limit of prepayment to Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar, is Behobis; to Serbia, (except Belgrade), Mostenegro, cities of Turkey in Europe, except as herein mentioned, "via Austria," the frontier of Turkey and Austria; to Aden, East Indies, Ceylon, China, and other countries via Suez, the seaports of the India, or of the coast of China to which the English packets ply; and to places beyond seas, other than those designated, the limit is the port of arrival in the country of destination. Letters may be forwarded in the French mails to Moldavia, Wallachia, and Turkey in Europe, by way of France and Austria; but the postage thereon must in all cases be paid at the place of destination.

RATES ON PAMPHLETS, MAGAZINES, ETC.
On pamphlets and magazines, to or from the West coast of South America, the United States postage is four cents; and to or from all other foreign countries, except Great Britain and the British North American Provinces, one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce; to be collected in all cases in the United States.

Newspapers and periodicals to be forwarded to any particularity to the continent of Europe) must be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends; otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage.

ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, ETC.
To prevent mistakes at the exchange offices, it is desirable that the particular routes by which letters are to be forwarded from the United States to Europe, should be distinctly written on the covers. Letters intended for transmission in the open mail to Europe, should bear the direction "open mail via England;" if for transmission in the French mail, they should be directed, "via France in French mail;" if for transmission by closed mail to Prussia, they should be directed, "Prussian closed mail;" if for transmission in the closed mail to Belgium, they should be directed "via Belgian closed mail;" and if for transmission by the New York and Bremen line to Bremen, or by the New York and Hamburg line to Hamburg, they should be directed "via Bremen," or "via Hamburg."

It is important that letters addressed to Germany and the European countries, via France, where the single rate per quarter ounce is 21 cents, should be plainly marked to be sent via France; otherwise they may be mis sent in the open mail to Liverpool by United States packet, the 21 cent rate per half ounce being also chargeable on letters thus forwarded.

DATE OF DEPARTURE OF EUROPEAN, SOUTH PACIFIC AND HAWAIIAN MAIIS, FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1864.

Name of the Line	Government to which belonging to	Date of Departure from New York	Date of Departure from Boston	DISSEMINATION
Hamburg	U. S.	2	2	Southampton & Hamburg
Danish	U. S.	2	2	Queenstown
Aspinwall	U. S.	2	2	Havana
Aspinwall	U. S.	4	4	South Pacific & C. A.
Canard	U. S.	6	6	Liverpool
Canard	U. S.	9	9	Queenstown & Bremen
Dales	U. S.	9	9	Havana
Dales	U. S.	10	10	Liverpool
Canard	U. S.	12	12	South Pacific, &c.
Aspinwall	U. S.	13	13	Havana
Canard	U. S.	16	16	Queenstown & Liverpool
Hamburg	U. S.	16	16	Hamburg
Canard	U. S.	20	20	Liverpool
Canard	U. S.	22	22	Havana and Nassau
Dales	U. S.	23	23	Queenstown & Liverpool
Bremen	U. S.	22	22	Bremen
Aspinwall	U. S.	23	23	South Pacific & C. A.
Canard	U. S.	25	25	Havana
Canard	U. S.	27	27	Queenstown
Dales	U. S.	30	30	Southampton & Hamburg
Hamburg	U. S.	30	30	Havana
Havana	U. S.	20	20	Havana

COUNTRIES.	Not exceeding 1/4 oz.	Exceeding 1/4 oz. and not exceeding 1/2 oz.	Exceeding 1/2 oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	Exceeding 1 oz. and not exceeding 2 oz.	Exceeding 2 oz. and not exceeding 4 oz.	Exceeding 4 oz. and not exceeding 8 oz.	Pamphlets per ounce.
Acapulco, via England, by Am. pkt.	10	10	10	10	10	10	1
Aden, British Mail, via Southampton	39	33	33	33	33	33	1
do do via Marseilles	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do French mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
Adriatic, French mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
Africa, (West Coast), British mail	33	33	33	33	33	33	1
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail	33	33	33	33	33	33	1
do French mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
do do do by Brit. pkt.	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 30c)	33	33	33	33	33	33	1
do French mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
do do do by Brit. pkt.	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
Algeria, French mail	15	15	15	15	15	15	1
Altona, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 31c)	33	33	33	33	33	33	1
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	22	22	22	22	22	22	1
do French mail	27	27	27	27	27	27	1
Antivari, French mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
Arabia, British mail, via Southampton	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do do via Marseilles	29	29	29	29	29	29	1
Argentine Republic, via England	45	45	45	45	45	45	1
do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
Ascension, via England	10	10	10	10	10	10	1
Aspinwall, for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles	10	10	10	10	10	10	1
do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	20	20	20	20	20	20	1
Australia, British mail, via Southampton	23	23	23	23	23	23	1
do do via Marseilles	39	39	39	39	39	39	1
do by private ship from N. York or Boston	20	20	20	20	20	20	1
do French mail (South Austr. comp'ry)	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Soer	50	50	50	50	50	50	1
do by Bremen & Hamburg mail, via Trieste	35	35	35	35	35	35	1
Austria and its States, Prussian closed mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do do do when prepaid	28	28	28	28	28	28	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15	15	15	15	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
Azores Island, British mail, via Portugal	29	29	29	29	29	29	1
Badan, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 25c)	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15	15	15	15	1
do French mail	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
Bahama, by direct steamer from New York	42	42	42	42	42	42	1
Bangkok, Siam, via Southampton	45	45	45	45	45	45	1
do do via Marseilles	51	57	57	57	57	57	1
Batavia, British mail, via Southampton	45	45	45	45	45	45	1
do do via Marseilles	53	53	53	53	53	53	1
Bavaria, Prussian closed mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do do do when prepaid	28	28	28	28	28	28	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15	15	15	15	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
Belgium, French mail	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
do closed mail, via England	27	27	27	27	27	27	1
do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
do do do by British packet	5	5	5	5	5	5	1
Belgrade, do do by American pkt.	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
do do do by British packet	5	5	5	5	5	5	1
do do do by French mail	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
Beirut, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c)	40	40	40	40	40	40	1
do French mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
Bogota, New Granada	18	18	18	18	18	18	1
Bolivia	34	34	34	34	34	34	1
Borneo, British mail, via Southampton	45	45	45	45	45	45	1
do do via Marseilles	53	53	53	53	53	53	1
Bourbon, British mail, via Southampton	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do do via Marseilles	39	39	39	39	39	39	1
do French mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
Brazil, via England, via Southampton	45	45	45	45	45	45	1
do via France, in French mail from Bordeaux	33	33	33	33	33	33	1
Bremen, Prussian closed mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do do do when prepaid	28	28	28	28	28	28	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15	15	15	15	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
do French mail	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
Br. Am. Prov. ex. p. Canada, dis. not over 3000 m.	10	10	10	10	10	10	1
do do exceeding 3000 miles	15	15	15	15	15	15	1
Brunswick, Prussian mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do do when prepaid	28	28	28	28	28	28	1
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	15	15	15	15	15	1
do do do by French mail	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
Buenos Ayres, via England	15	15	15	15	15	15	1
do via France, by Fr. ml. from Bordeaux	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
Canada, Prussian closed mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
Canary Islands, via England	10	10	10	10	10	10	1
do French mail	33	33	33	33	33	33	1
Candia, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c)	40	40	40	40	40	40	1
do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
do do do by British packet	5	5	5	5	5	5	1
Canea, British mail, by American packet	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
do do do by British packet	5	5	5	5	5	5	1
do do do by French mail	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
Cape Verde Islands, via England	29	29	29	29	29	29	1
do do in French mail, via Bordeaux	29	29	29	29	29	29	1
do do do via Lisbon	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
Carthage	18	18	18	18	18	18	1
C. Amer. Pac. Slope, via Panama (ex. Guatemalas and Costa Rica)	20	20	20	20	20	20	1
Ceylon, open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	21	21	21	21	21	1
do do do by British packet	5	5	5	5	5	5	1
do French mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do do do via Southampton	33	33	33	33	33	33	1
do do do via Marseilles	39	39	39	39	39	39	1
Chile, British mail, via Southampton	34	34	34	34	34	34	1
do do do via Marseilles	53	53	53	53	53	53	1
do do do by Br. or Hamb. g. ml. via Trieste	55	55	55	55	55	55	1
do do do by Br. or Hamb. g. ml. via Marseilles & Soer	40	40	40	40	40	40	1
do French mail	30	30	30	30	30	30	1
do do do by Br. or Hamb. g. ml. via Trieste	55	55	55	55	55	55	1
do do do by Br. or Hamb. g. ml. via Marseilles & Soer	40	40	40	40	40	40	1
do do do by Br. or Hamb. g. ml. via Trieste	55	55	55	55	55	55	1
do do do by Br. or Hamb. g. ml. via Marseilles & Soer	40	40	40	40	40	40	1
do do do by Br. or Hamb. g. ml. via Trieste	55	55	55	55	55	55	1
do do do by Br. or Hamb. g. ml. via Marseilles & Soer							

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. IV., No. 8.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1864.

WHOLE No. 44.

The Postal Money Order Bill.

Below we give a copy of the Postal Money Order Bill, which now awaits the final action of Congress. It passed the House nearly in its present shape, and certain amendments (which are included in the bill as here published) were added in the Senate previous to its passage by that body. It has now again been referred to the House:

A BILL

To Establish a Postal Money Order System.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That to promote public convenience, and to insure greater security in the transfer of money through the United States mails, the Postmaster General is hereby authorized to establish, under such rules and regulations as he may find expedient and necessary, a uniform money order system at all post offices which he may deem suitable therefor, and which shall be designated and known as "Money Order Offices;" and it shall be the duty of the deputy postmaster at every money order office to issue, in such manner and form as the Postmaster General may prescribe, an order for a sum of money payable by the deputy postmaster of any other money order office which the person applying therefor may select; and the deputy postmaster who issues such order shall be required to send through the mails, without delay, to the deputy postmaster on whom it is drawn, due notice thereof, and he shall not deliver such order to the applicant therefor until the latter shall first have deposited with him the amount of money for which such order is drawn, together with the proper charge or fee therefor, as hereinafter provided. And it shall not be lawful for any deputy postmaster to issue a money order on any other deputy postmaster without having previously received the money therefor; and any person who shall violate this provision shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That a money order shall not be valid or payable unless it be drawn on a printed or engraved form, which shall be furnished to the money order offices by the Postmaster General; and it shall be the duty of the latter to supply such offices also with the blank forms of application for money orders, of which the deputy postmaster shall hand to such applicant for a money order, who shall be required to enter or cause to be entered therein, his own name and the name and address of the party to whom the order is to be paid, together with the amount thereof and the date of application. And all such applications, when filed up and delivered to the deputy postmaster, shall be preserved in an office for such length of time as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That no money order shall be issued for any sum less than one or more than thirty dollars; and that all persons who receive money orders shall be required to pay therefor the following charges or fees, viz: For an order for one dollar or any larger sum, but not exceeding ten dollars, a fee of ten cents shall be charged and exacted by the postmaster giving such order; for an order of more than ten and not exceeding twenty dollars, the charge shall be fifteen cents; and for every order exceeding twenty dollars, a fee of twenty cents shall be charged.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That if the purchaser of a money order, from having made an error in stating the name of the office of payment, or the name of the payee, or for other reasons, be desirous that the said money order be modified or changed, it shall be the duty of the deputy postmaster from whom he received it to take back, at his request, the first order, and issue another in lieu thereof, for which a new second fee shall be exacted. And it shall also be the duty of a deputy postmaster to repay the amount of any money order to the person who obtained it, if the latter apply for such repayment and return the money order; but the charge or fee paid therefor shall not in any case be refunded.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That if any money order be not presented to the deputy postmaster on whom it is drawn within ninety days after its date, it shall not be valid or payable; but the Postmaster General shall be, and he is hereby, authorized, on application of the payee of such money order, to cause a new order in lieu thereof to be issued in his favor, for which a second fee shall be exacted. And the Postmaster General is further authorized, whenever a money order shall have been lost, to cause a duplicate thereof to be issued, for which a second fee shall be paid on application of the remitter or of the payee of such order, provided the party losing the original shall furnish a statement, under oath or affirmation, setting forth the loss or destruction thereof, and a certificate from the postmaster by whom it was payable that it had not been paid, and that it would not thereafter be paid.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the payee of a money order may, by his written endorsement thereon, direct it to be paid to any other person; and it shall be the duty of the deputy postmaster on whom it is ordered to pay the amount thereof to the person thus designated, provided the person by whom the money order is indorsed shall furnish such proof as the Postmaster General may require that the written indorsement is genuine, and that he is the person thereby empowered to receive payment of the order; but such second person shall not be at liberty to indorse the same order to a third party, and more than one indorsement shall render any order invalid, and not payable; and the holder thereof, in order to obtain the amount of the order, shall be required to apply in writing to the Postmaster General for a second order in lieu thereof, for which new order a second fee shall be charged. *Provided, however,* That in all cases under this section the original order shall be returned, and such proof shall be made of the genuineness of the indorsement thereon as the Postmaster General may require.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That deputy postmasters at money order offices, may be allowed by the Postmaster General, as a compensation for the issuing and paying of money orders, not exceeding one-third of the whole amount of fees on money orders issued, and, at the option of the Postmaster General, one-eighth

of one per centum on the gross amount of orders paid at their offices: *Provided,* That all emoluments arising from such rates of compensation shall be subject to the provisions of the forty-first section of the act of third of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, entitled "An act to reduce into one the several acts establishing the Post Office Department."

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to require all postmasters at money order offices to issue and pay money orders, to execute new official bonds, conditioned for the faithful performance of all duties and obligations imposed by this act, in addition to those required of them by existing laws as postmasters; and it shall be the duty of the Postmaster General to direct all payments or transfers to or from money order offices. He may direct transfers of money order funds from one postmaster to another, and he may require and direct transfers or payments to be made from the funds received for money orders to creditors of the Post Office Department, to be replaced by equivalent transfers from the funds of said department arising from postages; and he may require and direct transfers or payments to be made from the funds of the Post Office Department in the hands of any postmaster, arising from postages to the money order offices. And it shall be the further duty of the Postmaster General to require each postmaster to render to the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department weekly, semi-weekly, or daily accounts of all money orders issued and paid, and of all fees received for issuing them, of all transfers, or payments made from funds received for money orders, and of all moneys received to be applied to the payment of money orders, or on account of money order offices.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That out of the moneys paid into the Treasury for the service of the Post Office Department, the Postmaster General shall have the power to transfer to the deputy postmaster of any money order office such sums as may be required over and above the current revenue thereof to pay money orders drawn on the latter; and such transfers shall be made by warrant on the Treasury by the Postmaster General, and countersigned and registered by the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department to receive all accounts arising in the money order offices, or relative thereto, and to audit and settle the same, and to certify their balances to the Postmaster General as often as he may require. He shall keep and preserve all accounts arising in said offices, and shall report to the Postmaster General all delinquencies of postmasters in rendering their money order accounts, or in paying over money order funds. He shall keep the accounts of the money order offices separately from the accounts for postages, and in such manner as to show the number and amount of money orders issued by each postmaster, and the number and amount of money orders paid, and the amount of fees received, and all the expenses of the establishment. And it shall be the further duty of the Auditor to superintend the collection of all debts due to the United States, or to the Post Office Department, by present or late postmasters, or other persons who are, or may have been, employed in the money order offices. He shall direct suits and legal proceedings, and take all such measures as may be authorized by law to enforce the payment of such debts, or for the recovery of any penalties arising under the provisions of this act.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That all moneys received for the sale of money orders, including all fees received for selling the same, all moneys transferred from the funds of the Post Office Department to the money order offices, all funds transferred or paid from the money order offices to the use and service of the Post Office Department, and all transfers of funds from one postmaster to another for the use of the money order offices, shall be deemed and taken to be moneys in the treasury of the United States. And if any postmaster, assistant, clerk, or other person employed in or connected with the business or operations of the money order offices, shall convert to his own use, in any way whatever, or shall use by way of investment in any kind of property or merchandise, or shall loan with or without interest, or shall deposit in any bank, or shall exchange for other funds, any portion of such moneys, every such act shall be deemed and adjudged to be an embezzlement of so much of said moneys as shall be thus taken, converted, used, loaned, deposited, or exchanged, which is hereby declared to be a felony; and any failure to pay over or to produce the moneys entrusted to such person for the use of the money order offices shall be held and taken to be prima facie evidence of such embezzlement. And any postmaster, assistant, clerk, or other person employed in or connected with the business of the money order offices, and all other persons advising or participating in such act, on being convicted thereof before any court of the United States of competent jurisdiction, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than six months, nor more than ten years, and to a fine equal to the amount of the money embezzled. And upon the trial of any indictment against any person for embezzling public money under the provisions of this act, it shall be prima facie evidence for the purpose of showing a balance against such person to produce a transcript from the money order account books of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department; and such transcript, when certified by said Auditor under his seal of office, shall be admitted as evidence in the courts of the United States.

Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall falsify, make, forge, counterfeit, engrave, or print, or cause or procure to be falsified, forged, counterfeited, engraved or printed, or willfully aid, or assist in falsifying, forging, counterfeiting, engraving, or printing any order in imitation of or purporting to be a money order issued by one postmaster upon another postmaster, or shall falsify alter, or cause or procure to be altered, or willfully aid, or assist in falsifying altering, any money order issued as aforesaid; or shall pass, utter, or publish, or attempt to pass, utter, or publish, as true, any false, forged, or counterfeited order, purporting to be a money order as aforesaid, knowing the same to be falsified, forged or counterfeited; or shall pass, utter, or publish, or attempt to pass, utter, or publish, as true, any falsely altered money order, issued as aforesaid, knowing the same to be

falsely altered with an intent to defraud, every such person shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of felony, and being thereof convicted, shall be sentenced to be imprisoned and kept at hard labor for a period of not less than three years, nor more than ten years, and be fined in a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars.

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That for the purpose of carrying on the business of the money order offices, and keeping and settling their accounts, the Postmaster General may appoint in his department, one superintendent of the money order system, at an annual salary of twenty-five hundred dollars, and three clerks, to wit: one of class four, and two of class three. And the Secretary of the Treasury may, from time to time, appoint in the office of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, the necessary clerks, in all not to exceed six, to wit: one of class four, and five of class two. And to provide for the compensation of the said superintendent and clerks for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1865, the sum of seventeen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Report of the Postmaster General of Canada. The twelfth annual report of the Postmaster General of Canada has been presented to the Legislature. The report for 1863 is very voluminous, occupying no less than three hundred and seven pages of highly interesting matter. We lay before our readers a few extracts from the report, and at the same time have great pleasure in complimenting the Canadian Post Office Department on the very satisfactory statement of its affairs therein presented. That the Department is now self-sustaining, must be very pleasing to those who have been instrumental in bringing about this result; and we have no doubt but that under its present management, each succeeding year will witness a corresponding success. As the country grows in population and wealth, the present machinery, with very little additional expense, can be worked so that a large sum may be yielded annually to the revenue of the country.

During the year, 132 offices were opened, and 16 closed; 400 miles of new post routes and 118,472 miles of annual mail travel were added to the service. From the comparative statement showing the extent of mail service, number of letters, amount of postal revenue and expenditures, from 1861 to 1863, we find that in the former year there were 691, and in the latter 1,976 offices in operation. The number of miles of post routes in 1861, were 7,595, and in 1863, 15,327; number of miles of annual travel, 2,487,069 in 1861, and 6,110,000 in 1863. The number of letters by post in 1861, 2,132,000, and in 1863, 11,000,000. Revenue in 1861, \$230,629; in 1863, \$759,975 55. Total expenditure, exclusive of railway and ocean mail service payments, in 1861, was \$276,191 76; in 1863, \$571,432 33.

A remarkable feature in connection with the increased revenue of the Department is, that there has been a reduction in salaries to the extent of \$4,000 during the year.

In November, 1863, provision was made for the transmission by post in Canada, and to and from the United States, at a postage rate of one cent per ounce, of packages of seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, or grafts, and also for the transmission, at the same rate, of book manuscript, printers' proof sheets, maps, prints, drawings, engravings, and other matter of a like character, all guarded by such conditions as seemed to be requisite to secure these privileges from abuse.

MONSIEUR TONSON COME AGAIN.
BETWEEN BOSTON AND BRITAIN.
Editor U. S. Mail:

The indifference manifested by the mass of rural postmasters in regard to the safety and despatch of mails between railroad stations and their offices, is often a subject of conversation in the cars among passengers. At many places, where it is not the business of the railway company to deliver them, the pouches and sacks are thrown on a baggage cart, or hotel stage, and detained until these vehicles are fully freighted; and where the company is responsible for such delivery, the bags are tumbled on to the platform, where they remain until the station keeper's other work is done before they are sent to the post office.

Now, I take it that a postmaster is as much bound to look after the safety of the mails outside as inside his office; and the traditional idea that his work commences and ends with opening and closing bags, assorting and delivering letters, is simply absurd. I don't mean to convey the impression that he should watch and wait about depots and stations, nor that he should stand guard over the mails to and from his office; but I do mean that he should, by his vigilance and counsel, impress upon those whose duty it is, the importance of security, celerity and promptness in receiving and delivering them.

The Post Office law provides, I believe, that no one under sixteen years of age shall be a mail carrier, yet it is no unusual thing to see a ten-year-old staggering under a pouch sufficiently capacious to hide himself in, if occasion required it. This disregard of official instruction has its origin either in ignorance or negligence, either of which should be cause of severe censure, if not of removal, of the offending official.

Again, it is no unusual thing to see letters, sometimes in post-office wrappers, thrust into the handle of a mail pouch, after it has been locked, and conveyed in this way a long distance to the mail car. Carriers should be strictly prohibited from doing it; and where I know the act has been committed by a post-office official, I invariably note down the fact, adding to the words "carelessness" and "ignorance," "laziness." One of these days I will furnish you with a list of these sweet-scented localities.

It is not at all difficult to tell the difference between an efficient and inefficient postmaster, by a glance at the condition of his establishment. Order or chaos is supreme. If the former, a perfect system of watchfulness, faithfulness, industry, politeness, cleanliness and decorum are the controlling influences; but the surroundings of the latter are insolence, indolence and indifference, and a familiarity with unclean things.

You know, Mr. Editor, that I think female clerks are admirably adapted to some of the clerical duties of post-offices, and that they could be employed therefor with large advantages. I have often wondered why they have not been more generally selected for such positions. Patient, cheerful, industrious, eminently capable, and scrupulously honest, they possess all the essential qualifications; and when the fact is taken into consideration that there are so few vocations that deserving, intelligent women can fill, that are remunerative, I cannot withhold the suggestion that something ought to be done to carry out this idea, particularly when there are, throughout the land, so many widows and daughters of brave soldiers who have fallen in defending their country and its flag, from a foe so barbarous as to be unworthy to wear a soldier's name.

Sympathy, not gallantry, is the motive which impels me to take up this subject, and I do fervently hope that what I have said may effect something; if not, this old gentleman (meaning myself) will be able to felicitate himself upon the attempt to do a good deed, which, with many others, past, present and prospective, will enable him

"To read his title clear,
To master in the stile."

I must not forget to hint that very many nice young gentlemen, employed in post offices, are addicted to the vile habit of smoking their meerschaums while on duty; and some offices that I have visited are so impregnated with tobacco smoke, that it really surprises me to see a lady, or any one with a delicate organization, leaving the delivery window without being overcome by the nauseous atmosphere of the place. Gentlemen, if you must smoke—and I believe there is huge comfort in a pipe sometimes—select your time and place; stop smoking in your offices, and intimate to your visiting friends that you have turned over a new leaf. Smoking is strictly prohibited in railway cars and stations, and in steamboat cabins, because it is offensive to ladies. How much more so, then, in post offices, where they are obliged to come, and where, in addition to this, so much risk is incurred of destroying by fire what can never be replaced!

Perhaps you will say it is none of my business—nor is it, officially; but I assume that

R. C. Gist, Esq., Special Agent in charge of the Memphis Post Office, was lately presented, by the clerks of the office, with a beautiful gold-mounted cane, as a token of their appreciation of his official and social good qualities; and, from our knowledge of that gentleman, we feel sure that his gift was well bestowed.

I have the right to give good advice to any one, whether it is followed or not, and will continue to do so when I think it is needed, provided the "Mail" don't close on me.

MONSIEUR TONSON

Resignation of Sir Rowland Hill.

We noticed this event briefly in our last, and now copy from the London *Daily News* the following able and appreciative notice of the services of the distinguished pioneer of postal reform:

It is with keen regret we learn that the state of his health and the advice of his physicians have obliged Sir Rowland Hill to resign the secretaryship of the General Post Office, and to retire from the public service, if not in a critical and dangerous condition, at all events a worn-out and exhausted man, still retaining, indeed, all the inclination and intellectual capacity to do so when I think it is needed, provided the "Mail" don't close on me.

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Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK. NEW YORK MAY 1864

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General. To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerks of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

Special Notice to our Subscribers.

The death of Mr. James Holbrook, late editor and proprietor of this paper, will be found duly noticed in another column of the present number. This event was the sad termination of an illness of nearly seven months, during which time the editorial department has been necessarily confided to other hands than those of Mr. H., and it is proper to assure our readers that in future, as heretofore, no effort will be spared to convey in these columns accurate information on postal matters, and to supply, as far as possible the absence of the able pen of our lamented friend.

[OFFICIAL.]

[In publishing, last month, the following order from a manuscript copy, the printer unfortunately mistook the words "Contract Office" for "Contract Office," and so printed them. We regret the error should have occurred, and that a press of official business prevented our revise of the proof. It is now re-published in a corrected form.]—Ed. MAIL.

Discontinuance of the Inspection Office.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, March 3, 1864. Being satisfied that the duties of supervising and inspecting the performance of mail service, now done under direction of the Chief Clerk, can be better and more efficiently performed in the Contract Office, it is

Ordered, That the Inspection Office, as such, be dispensed with, and that the duties of supervision and inspection of mail service of all kinds, including contractors, carriers, messengers and agents, of every description, be transferred to the Contract Office, under the direction and charge of the Second Assistant Postmaster-General; and for the performance of these additional duties the whole force of clerks, and the messenger now employed in the Inspection Office, be transferred to him, to be employed in said business.

The supervising and inspection duties thus assigned to the Contract Office and to be performed by the Clerk of the Inspection Office, are, receiving and examining registers of the departure and arrivals of the mails, report of mail failures, noting the delinquencies of contractors, agents, and messengers, preparing cases therein for the advice of the Postmaster-General, conducting correspondence in relation to complaints against contractors, carriers, agents, and messengers, and receiving and examining certificates of the service of the Route Agents and baggage-masters in charge of mails, and making the necessary report to the Auditor for their payment.

This assignment of duties to the Contract Office also includes furnishing blanks for mail registers and report of mail failures; providing and sending out mail-bags, locks and keys, and doing all other things which may be necessary to secure a faithful and exact performance of mail service, and in like manner the supervision of Special Agents and others engaged in the arrangement of mail service, the detection of mail depredations or violation of law by private expressors, or by the forgery or illegal use of postage stamps, are transferred and placed in charge of the Contract Office.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES HOLBROOK.

On Thursday afternoon, April 28th, Mr. James Holbrook, late Special Agent of the Post Office Department, and Editor and Publisher of this paper, died at his home in Brooklyn, Conn., at the age of 53 years.

Though for the past seven months Mr. Holbrook has been confined to his home by the illness which has resulted in his death, yet up to within a short time, his friends and family were not without hopes of his restoration to health; but a constitution undermined by the exposure and unremitting labor incident to the duties of the office he held, proved unequal to the task of sustaining the vital principle, and on the date mentioned above he peacefully sank to his rest.

Although to those of our readers who had no personal acquaintance with our departed friend, he was yet well-known by reputation, while to those who knew him well, the simple announcement of his death will be sufficient to call to mind their minds the recollection of his eminent services as a public officer, and his virtues as a man—yet it would seem not unavailing, now that he has passed away, that a few words should be recorded in the columns of this paper, in commemoration of those services and those virtues.

Mr. Holbrook was born in Boston, in 1811, and resided there during his boyhood and youth, removing in 1832 to Brooklyn, Windham Co., Conn., at which place he was married, and where he assumed the editorial charge of the Windham County Advertiser. His connection with that paper continued until 1836, when he established it at Norwich, in the same State, the Norwich Advertiser. In 1840 he again removed to Hartford, where for three years he edited and published the State Eagle, the name of which was afterwards changed to the Patriot and Eagle. In the conduct of these various journals, Mr. Holbrook's editorial course was such as to show that he fully appreciated the dignity and responsibilities of the profession of a journalist.

A clear, terse and vigorous style marked the productions of his pen, and the heat of party conflict never betrayed him into forgetfulness of the courtesy due to political opponents, though still earnestly and ably defending the views and principles of the party to which from conviction he was attached. During the administration of President Tyler, he relinquished the publication of the Eagle, and accepted a post in the Land Office at Washington, where he remained but a short time. He was then appointed to a clerkship in the Boston Custom House, which he continued to hold until 1845, in which year he received his commission as Special Agent of the Post Office Department, signed by the Hon. Cave Johnson, then Postmaster General.

In this new sphere of duty, Mr. Holbrook soon gave evidence of the most eminent qualifications for the important trust which had been confided to him. The long record of his services is the best testimonial of his conscientious devotion of all his energies to the interests of the Department and the public. Shrewd, active, possessing cool, deliberate judgment, joined to a thorough knowledge of human nature, and a keen insight into human character and motives, he soon distinguished himself above all other agents then in the service; and the results of his untiring devotion to the duties of his position, have been of incalculable benefit. In the detection of mail depredators, his uniform success is so well known as to need nothing beyond a mere allusion here. With an unerring instinct which sometimes seemed to approach the marvellous, his eye could fix upon the robber, and his skill unravel the tangled web of crime, and lay open to the light the dark and tortuous ways of the criminal. So well did he succeed in this particular branch of his duties, that his very name became a terror to evil-doers, and it is not hazarding too much to say, that doubtless his mere presence in a particular locality has often prevented the commission of intended crime. But although untiring in his efforts to secure the mails from violation by the detection and prosecution of crime, he was ever ready to pity and befriend the unfortunate, and his kind heart was often grieved at the sight of the suffering and misery which their own offences had brought upon the guilty. The innocent families and relatives of criminals never appeared in vain to him for sympathy and assistance.

Although the investigation of "depredation cases" seemed to be Mr. Holbrook's peculiar forte, yet the exercise of his talents was by no means confined to that specialty. His sound sense and mature judgment rendered him equally capable of admirably fulfilling every other branch of a Special Agent's duty. He kept a watchful eye over all the minutiae of the mail service in all its departments, and was prompt to ensure the correction of every case of neglect or abuse which came under his observation. His official superiors, under all the changes of administration which have transpired since his appointment, have evinced their confidence in his capacity, experience and integrity, by a uniform attention to such suggestions as he felt called upon to make, and by frequent reference to him of official matters—such as changes of post office sites, &c.—requiring the exercise of prudence, sagacity and clear and unbiased judgment. By the present able head of the Department in particular, he was highly appreciated, and thoroughly trusted.

Apart from his official position, Mr. Holbrook was honored, respected and beloved by a numerous circle of friends and acquaintances. A peculiar trait in his character, and one which seemed to be more highly developed, if possible, as death approached, was his unceasing care for the well-being and interests of others. Few men are capable of the disinterested and unselfish devotion which he displayed when an opportunity offered to serve those who stood in need of his aid. To his kind influence hundreds of young men have owed their success in life. A self-made man himself, and knowing the difficulties which the young have to encounter on entering upon the active duties of life, he appreciated the value

of a helping hand at such a time, and never failed to extend it. In his family circle, in which his death has created so fearful a void, and such an utter sense of desolation, that we scarcely dare to allude to it, he was beloved as such a husband and father should be; and though by the nature of his occupation, often absent from his home, none appreciated more than he the blessings of domestic happiness, nor made greater efforts and sacrifices to furnish his family with every possible comfort and luxury. His home affections were unusually strong, and there is little doubt that grief at the loss, in 1862, of his only son, had the effect of shortening his life.

In the community in which he resided, his loss will be felt to be one of uncommon severity. In every good public work he was ever foremost, contributing freely of his means, and always ready with wise counsel—neighborly, obliging and public spirited.

His funeral took place at Brooklyn, on the 30th ult., and was largely attended. The Rev. Mr. Seymour, pastor of the Congregational Church, conducted the exercises, and alluded most feelingly to the deceased, assuring his hearers that in his case, death, though a heavy grief to the survivors, had no terrors for the departed. He entered the dark valley feeling that he was supported by the everlasting arms, and calmly relying on the promises of Him in whom he had placed a Christian's trust, and by whose grace he met the last enemy in the full assurance of victory.

A good man, a useful citizen, a valuable public servant, has gone from among us. His life was an example—his death a public calamity—and his memory will live.

— the actions of the just, Small sweet and blossom from the dust. —

The Money Order Bill.

We publish on our first page, the bill providing for the establishment of a postal money order system, as passed in the House, and after amendment, in the Senate. It has again been referred to the House for action, and though not yet finally disposed of, we are informed that it no doubt will soon pass. We shall, if it be again amended in the House, note such alterations as may be made, in our next.

As many of our readers may not understand the operations of this system—which, although it has been established in Great Britain for many years, has never before been tried in this country—we will give a brief outline of the intended practical working of the proposed law, which may serve to furnish postmasters with an idea of the duties which will be required of them when the law goes into effect.

Certain post offices, to be selected by the Postmaster General, are to be designated as "money order offices,"—that is, offices at which the orders may be obtained and paid. At any of these offices, a person desiring to send a remittance by mail, can, on presenting a written application (a blank form of which will be provided by the Department,) to the postmaster, obtain from him an order for the desired amount, made payable to the person the remittance is intended for. This order can only be drawn on the postmaster of another money order office, and on presentation to him will be paid. If the party presenting the order for payment be unknown to the postmaster on whom it is drawn, he should be identified before receiving the money. Money orders cannot be obtained for a less amount than one dollar, nor a greater amount than thirty dollars. The person obtaining the order is required to pay a certain fee, in proportion to the amount of the order. The rates to be charged for various sums will be found specified in the bill. The person in whose favor the order is drawn, may, by endorsement, make it payable to another; but it cannot be again endorsed to a third party; and if this is done, it virtually cancels the order, which cannot then be paid, but it may be renewed on payment of a second fee. Postmasters at money order offices are to be entitled to one-third of the receipts from fees paid on orders issued by them, and also to a commission of one-eighth of one per cent, on the gross amount of orders paid at their offices.

Should the bill become a law, the department will no doubt issue full instructions and explanations in regard to the details of the system, and our present remarks are simply intended to give a general idea of what is intended to be accomplished by the "money order system," for the benefit of those who need the information.

We should be glad to see the bill passed; and though the system may not at first be found to work as smoothly here,—with our more extensive territory and the other points of difference which exist between our postal arrangements and those of Great Britain,—yet we feel confident that any difficulties will soon be overcome, and the manifest advantages of this new step in postal progress be fully enjoyed by our people.

Letters to the President and Vice President.

Under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved March 3d, 1863, all communications by mail, addressed to the President of the United States,—not written by a public officer on official business,—and all to the Vice President, were required to be prepaid. It will be seen by the following act, approved March 16th, 1864, that this necessity no longer exists:

"Be it enacted, &c., That the franking privilege of the President and the Vice President of the United States, shall extend to and cover all mail matter sent from—or directed to—either of them."

In future, therefore, no postage will be charged by postmasters on letters or other mail matter, whether from government officials or private citizens, addressed to the President or Vice President of the United States.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE MAIL.—We are unable to supply new subscribers with consecutive back numbers of our paper of an earlier date than February last—the editions of several of the previous numbers having been exhausted.

Private Letter Boxes.

Some time since we briefly alluded to the advantages to be derived from the use, by those whose correspondence is delivered by carriers, of boxes for the reception of their letters, to be attached to the doors of dwelling houses and stores. Now that the system of free delivery in the larger cities and towns has been adopted by the Department, the plan alluded to would be not only entirely without objection, but its practical operation would prove a most important saving of time and labor. To illustrate the matter, it will be sufficient to state the fact that a carrier, under the present system of delivery, is often obliged to walk the entire length of a store, 100 feet deep, for the purpose of delivering his letters to the person addressed, and then is of course compelled to retrace his steps for the same distance. In going through this tedious process at twenty-five stores, he necessarily (or rather unnecessarily) walks nearly a mile, which involves a waste of twenty minutes' time, at least, on a single delivery, while the loss in five deliveries (which is the number made by the New York carriers) would amount to one hour and forty minutes—and this is a low estimate. To business men we need present no other argument to show the importance to them of some plan to economize in that most valuable commodity, time. We believe that business letters would reach their destination, on an average, half an hour earlier on each delivery if merchants would go to the trifling trouble and expense of providing a secure box with a good lock, to be placed just within the front doors of their places of business, in which the carrier might deposit their letters.

At private houses, also, the delay which is so often caused by the failure of domestics to answer promptly the summons of the door bell, might be entirely obviated, and the carrier, instead of awaiting the tardy appearance of Bridget, would have time to deliver the correspondence of half-a-dozen neighbors before that lady found time to ascend the stairs.

Boxes for the reception of letters at places of business may be either attached to the inner side of the outer door, with an opening or "drop" from the outside, or placed, as above suggested, in a convenient position inside the door. At private houses, this opening could be covered with an ornamental plate, working on a hinge, which would rather add to than detract from the appearance of the door. We understand that in Boston, where this plan is being extensively adopted, a gentleman has invented a box for this purpose, so arranged that the outer covering of the opening for letters can be used as a name or number plate.

Of course, due precaution should be taken as to the security of these boxes; and where that is done, we have no doubt that valuable correspondence will run much less risk than at present from the dishonesty of merchants clerks and messengers.

We should be glad to see this system fairly tried, and we feel assured that the result would be that a "door letter-box" would soon become as indispensable as a door lock.

The New Travelling Post Offices.

One of the new cars fitted up as a "travelling post-office" for the distribution and sorting of letters in transit, on the plan alluded to in our last, will be placed on the route between Washington and New York within a day or two, for the purpose of making a trial trip, or a series of trial trips, and testing by actual experiment the feasibility of the proposed system. Mr. Zevely, Third Assistant P. M. General, who has been entrusted with the introduction of this important improvement in the mail service, will be present to observe the operation of this first practical application of the system, and a force of clerks from the New York and Baltimore offices has been detailed to attend to the details of the work.

In consequence of the death of Mr. Holbrook, the publication of our paper has unfortunately been delayed somewhat this month. We are sure that with such a reason, our readers will readily pardon our tardy appearance.

REVENUE STAMP ON QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS.—A paragraph appeared in our last, stating that the quarterly account of a postmaster does not require a revenue stamp when sent to the Department. We have, however, since received a letter from C. F. Macdonald, Esq., Acting Third Assistant Postmaster-General, in which he quotes a decision of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue on the subject:

"The act of 3d March, 1863, requires the account of each postmaster to be accompanied by a sworn statement that each account 'exhibits truly and faithfully the entire receipts of his office,' &c. The form for this statement has been, for convenience, printed upon the face of the account current; and, according to a special decision of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, a revenue stamp of the denomination of five cents is required to be affixed thereto, when the same is duly executed."

Postmasters will therefore be careful not to omit to attach the revenue stamp to the affidavit accompanying their quarterly accounts.

CARRYING LETTERS GRATIS.—It should be remembered that the law forbidding the carrying of letters by express companies, &c. (unless enclosed in government stamped envelopes), only applies to such letters as are carried for hire or compensation; and those of our correspondents who inquire whether an individual "has a right to carry letters for other persons to another post office," will understand that there is no law to prevent such an act, provided it be done without compensation.

EDWARD W. GREEN, late postmaster of Malden, Mass., was arraigned on the 19th ult., and pleaded guilty to the charge of murdering young Converse, teller of the Malden Bank, in December last. The prisoner was sentenced to be hung.

Depredation Cases.

IMPORTANT ARREST AT OSWEGO.—On the 1st of April, special agent B. K. Sharrets arrested at Oswego, N. Y., a clerk employed in the post office, named R. D. Eggleston, on a charge of embezzling valuable letters. Mr. Sharrets had for some time previously been engaged in the investigation of numerous reported losses which seemed to implicate the Oswego office, and his skill and patience were finally rewarded by the detection of Eggleston, who has made a full confession of his guilt, and has been held to bail in \$6000 to answer. The Oswego Commercial Times says that—

"The principal source of complaint has been the robbery of soldiers' letters of the remittances to their families—a species of villainy which fell with peculiar weight upon a comparatively helpless class of the community; but in addition to this it is said that checks and drafts, to which Eggleston has forged signatures, and on which he has realized money, are in existence, which fix the guilt unmistakably upon him."

Mr. Sharrets is entitled to great credit for his able management of this important case.

ARREST OF A CARRIER AT THE POST OFFICE.

—On the 21st ult., Martin Van Buren Young, lately employed as a letter carrier of the New York office, was arrested by Mr. J. Gayler, of the Special Agent's Department on a charge of stealing money from a letter entrusted to him for delivery. When searched, no trace of the money purloined, could be found upon the person of Young, but within an hour Mr. Gayler obtained it from the broker to whom it was sold, who fully identified the prisoner as the person from whom he had bought it. Young waived an examination, and has been indicted by the Grand Jury. He had previously borne a good character.

MAIL ROBBERY ON THE HIGH SEAS.—A boy named Augustus Pallez, employed on board the U. S. supply steamer Union, was arrested at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on April 3, on a charge of mail robbery. A mail agent was attached to the vessel, and had in his charge a large number of letters mailed by officers and sailors of the blockading squadron, &c., addressed to their friends at the North. Pallez obtained access to these letters, by means of a false key, during the homeward passage, and purloined about 115 letters, containing about \$250, most of which was afterwards found upon his person. He made a confession of his guilt, has been indicted, and is now awaiting trial.

QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS.—We occasionally receive from our subscribers questions in regard to the proper heads under which certain items should be charged or credited, in the quarterly accounts, and various other inquiries connected with this branch of post office business. The published Regulations of 1859 give satisfactory instructions for the guidance of postmasters in nearly all matters of this nature, and should be carefully consulted. In cases of doubt, the necessary information can be obtained by addressing the "Auditor of the Treasury for the post office Department, Washington."

BOX RENTS. We will again state for the information of several correspondents, that the provision of the law of 1863, which requires postmasters to keep a record of their receipts from box-rents, means no more than is plainly expressed by its language—viz, that "a record" of such receipts shall be kept. This of course does not imply that a postmaster is to charge himself with those receipts in his quarterly account—as some seem to suppose. Those of our friends, therefore, who write us that they "think it hard that the receipts from boxes which they have fitted up at their own expense should be paid to the Department," will find, by a careful reading of Section 4, and the accompanying instructions, that they have had no cause for their alarm.

LOOK OUT FOR THEM.—We hear from various quarters that the mails are crowded with circulars—principally addressed to postmasters—offering great inducements for investments in certain "gold and silver mining companies," for the working of mines in Colorado, Nevada, &c. Many of these schemes are gross swindles, there being no basis whatever for the stock, as those who subscribe to them will find to their sorrow. We would advise all who are desirous of risking anything in these hazardous ventures, to delay the forwarding of any cash until after thorough inquiry into the matter. In the mean time, the "10-40 Loan" will be found a safe and convenient place of deposit for the spare funds of postmasters and other government officials.

In instructions to postmasters, last month, as to the proper address of letters referring to matters heretofore under the supervision of the Inspection Office (now abolished), we meant to have stated that such communications should be directed to "Geo. W. McClellan, Esq., Second Assistant Postmaster General;" but the types (blundering, as types sometimes will) caused the mis-spelling of that gentleman's name as McClellan—a liberty, we hope, they will not again take.

Notwithstanding the extensive notice given by the orders of the Department, and through our columns, that the postage due on letters arriving here from certain foreign countries is to be collected in coin, many postmasters in the interior are in the habit of seeking, from the postmasters of New York, and other offices where such letters are received, an explanation of the fact that a higher rate is charged them than the nominal postage. It should be understood, and remembered, that the additional charge is made in order to secure the payment of such postage in specie or its equivalent, as required by law. What is added is the premium on specie at the time of the arrival of the letters; and if payment is made in specie, no addition to the regular rates should be required.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

COMMUNICATIONS.

POST OFFICE—MASS.

Editor U. S. Mail:
The mail arrives at this office at 7 P. M., at which time all classes of people are at liberty, and, as a matter of course, crowd around the Post Office. There are usually hundreds of persons in waiting, all eager for the first chance when the delivery window is opened, many of whom do not have a letter once in three months; they crowd at the window every night, and cannot be pacified until the P. M. has overhauled an usually large package of letters, which takes time and hence, in waiting many who hire boxes. Hence, the question has been raised whether the right for first delivery belongs to persons who have boxes or to those who have not. I do not claim that one person's right at the office is to be more respected than another; but could not there be some plan perfected so as to enable the box holders to take their mail first, as the number who hold boxes comprises or takes four-fifths of the mail. This would have a great deal of inconvenience and be a convenience not only to the P. M., but I think, to the community in general. Please give me your opinion of the case, and much oblige
Yours, truly,
P. M.

"First come, first served" is the only safe rule for a P. M. to follow in respect to the delivery of mail matter, and we can see no remedy for the inconvenience complained of, except the one which is in the hands of the box holders themselves, namely: taking care to be on hand in time to make early application for their letters. We suppose, however, there could be no objection to having a separate delivery window "for box holders only."

POST OFFICE, READING, Pa.,
March 15, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail:
A disagreement exists between postmasters as to the proper classification of blanks which are filled up by writing, and the charges which should be made upon such matter. For instance, in the case of muster rolls, descriptive lists, and other blanks which are constantly being issued and sent through the mails, it is proper to rate such matter with other articles embraced in the third class, or as letter postage?
There are those who argue that the writing or filling up conveys no information, and that, consequently, such blanks, when filled up, are entitled to pass through the mails at the rate of 2 c. for every 4 oz., while others are of the opinion that the writing, on printed matter, of any thing "other than the name and address of the person to whom it is sent, subjects the package to letter postage," as provided by law.
Your opinion, either through the columns of the MAIL, or through a more private medium, is respectfully solicited, as it is of considerable importance.
Very respectfully,
P. O. CLERKS.

We know of no reason why such blanks, when filled up in writing, should not be charged with letter postage. The law makes no exception in favor of any class of printed matter in this respect; and the blanks referred to, it seems to us, are no more entitled to exemption from letter postage than printed price currents with the prices filled up in manuscript.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Is it proper to re-charge free or franked mail matter free of charge, or should forwarding charges be added thereon? I find nothing in the Postal Laws or Regulations touching this point. In other words, will an official frank cover remailing or forwarding indefinitely?
A reply in the columns of the MAIL or otherwise will greatly oblige
Your obedient servant,
P. M.

If our correspondent, in his search through the Laws and Regulations, had encountered Sec. 244 of the Regulations, he would have found that "properly franked mail matter is entitled to be carried free in the mail when forwarded to the person addressed elsewhere," and we find no expressed limit to the number of times which such matter may be so forwarded.

Editor U. S. Mail:—One of your exchanges make you say in last month's MAIL that soldiers in the British army "frank" their own letters. Such is not the fact. Non-commissioned officers and privates in the British army may send their letters to, and receive them from, any part of the British dominions by prepaying them at one penny a rate. They must be endorsed by the soldier with his name, rank, company, regimental numbers, and commissions, by his colonel, or other officer in command; and no extra charge is made when forwarded on the removal of his regiment. The foregoing remarks also apply to the navy. British sailors on foreign or other stations, when they have no postage stamps, and are not near a post office, have an ingenious way of securing the prepayment of their letters: they place a penny piece on the right hand upper corner of the letter, and with a needle and thread sew it on the letter. It cannot fall off until it reaches a post office, when it is removed by the postmaster, and the letter marked paid.
Respectfully yours,
R. E. B.

Editor U. S. Mail:
We have been much troubled recently with the mode adopted by many newspaper publishers in directing their papers to subscribers. In one or two instances, packages of twenty or more papers have been received without distinct addresses, but the names of the subscribers, written on a slip of paper, requiring the clerk to direct each paper. Sufficient care has not been taken, when the printed address is used, to secure a proper adhesive mullage or paste, and on several occasions, owing to the dampness of the papers, they are lost off, and no doubt many persons are deprived of their papers from this cause.
— P. M.

Postmasters are not required to direct subscribers' papers which reach their offices in packages, nor are they allowed to do so, unless it can be done without interfering with the legitimate business of the office. In regard to the printed labels or pasters, it is the duty of publishers who use them to see that they are firmly affixed; and if they become detached through the neglect of this precaution, the subscriber thereby fails to receive his paper, the post office is of course not in any way responsible or blameable for the misfortune.

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS.—Under a recent decision of the Postmaster General, the rate of postage on photograph albums has been fixed at four cents per four ounces, or fraction thereof—the same rate as charged for books. Previous to this decision letter rates have been charged. The necessary iteration will be found in our column of "Domestic Postages."

ENCLOSING ARTICLES IN NEWSPAPERS.—Publishers of some highly respectable journals are in the habit of enclosing, in the papers sent to their subscribers, handbills and circulars, ignorant or regardless of the fact that such enclosure subjects the entire package of which it is a part to letter postage, or that, if payment thereof is refused, these publishers are themselves liable to a fine of five dollars for each offence. We incline to think that ignorance of the provisions of the law is the cause, in most cases, of the practice; but it will become necessary, we fear, to make some examples, by a prosecution for the penalty, before it will be wholly discontinued.

Our standing column of "Miscellaneous Information" is unavoidably omitted this month, but will re-appear in our next number.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of April:

POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	ROUTE.
Annapolis,	Dutchess,	N. Y.	Spacia
Annapolis,	Dutchess,	N. Y.	Spacia
Ada,	Ray,	Mo.	10,515
Albany,	Tuscarawas,	Ohio,	9,031
Buckeye Mills,	Westmoreland,	Pa.	2,642
Bayonne,	Hudson,	N. J.	Special
Barnard,	Piscataquis,	Me.	1,401
Brewer's Ranch,	Merrick,	Neh.	14,001
Birdsall,	Alleghany,	N. Y.	Special
Borne,	Potter,	Pa.	2,719
Burke's City,	Daviess,	Ky.	9,550
Bridgeport,	Mono,	Cal.	Special
Chesterfield,	Litchfield,	Ohio,	2,509
Canaan Valley,	Hitchcock,	W. Va.	Special
Chalk Level,	Hopkins,	Ky.	9,671
Clay City,	Bartholomew,	Ind.	12,907
Coon Rapids,	Carroll,	Iowa,	11,072
Delaware,	Daviess,	Ky.	9,650
Dinca,	Alleghany,	Pa.	2,642
Dixons,	Keokuk,	Iowa,	14,302
Eik Creek,	Jefferson,	Col. T.	14,226
Fort Jefferson,	Shirley,	Kan.	9,382
Farmer's City,	Darke,	Ohio,	10,401
Folk's Station,	Harrison,	Ohio,	12,907
Carry Owen,	Jackson,	Iowa,	10,978
Grant,	Davis,	Kan.	14,228
Goodhue Centre,	Goodhue,	Ill.	15,353
Griton,	Will,	Ill.	9,434
Haden,	Paulding,	Ohio,	4,230
Rampede,	Coffee,	Kan.	10,773
Hopeville,	Kearney,	Neb.	2,922
Johnsville,	Franklin,	Mo.	14,465
Kiowa,	Peke-ton,	Kan.	9,501
Keene,	Meade,	Ky.	11,659
Lacy,	De Kalb,	Ill.	11,659
Livonia Centre,	Marion,	Ohio,	Special
Letimberville,	Casey,	Ky.	Special
Louis Gate,	Walworth,	Wis.	13,023
Lake Side,	Cooper,	Mo.	10,567
Midway,	Cal.	Cal.	2,251
Minna Valley,	Chester,	Pa.	15,149
Marsh,	Dunn,	Wis.	15,149
Maple Springs,	St. Louis,	Mo.	15,149
Mattose,	North lowland,	Mo.	15,149
North lowland,	Chittenden,	Vt.	414
North Underhill,	Doniphan,	Kan.	14,178
Normanville,	Olmsted,	Min.	Special
Othello,	Livingston,	Ill.	Special
Oak Dale,	Pleasant Valley,	Cal.	14,808
Pleasant Valley,	Clinton,	N. Y.	Special
Pearville,	Cattaraugus,	Pa.	Special
Peaveale,	Madison,	Ill.	11,636
Prairie Town,	Palmer's Prairie,	Ill.	Special
Palmer's Prairie,	Edgar,	Ill.	Special
Pacific City,	Mills,	Iowa,	11,086
Power's Store,	Cassidy,	Ky.	Special
Randall,	Monongalia,	W. Va.	14,558
Randall,	Wayne,	Pa.	14,558
Round Valley,	Midland,	Utah,	14,608
Requaville,	Warren,	W. Va.	Special
Rose Mount,	Fredrick,	Iowa,	14,608
Rush Branch,	Marion,	Ind.	11,106
Ragan,	Harrison,	Iowa,	11,106
Scythville,	Merrimack,	N. H.	301
Sharpsville,	Franklin,	Mo.	14,002
St. Devion,	Nemaha,	Neb.	14,002
Sherman,	Arrostook,	Me.	Special
Sherman's Land'g,	Hardin,	Ill.	2,790
Sherman's Land'g,	Genango,	Pa.	2,496
Sherrill,	Franklin,	Pa.	14,202
Tyler's,	Brown,	Kan.	15,552
Packet's Station,	Barran,	Ky.	9,641
Tracy,	Walla Walla,	Ida.	15,277
Touchet,	Walla Walla,	Ida.	15,277
Unndu,	Brown,	Kan.	14,193
Union Dale,	Cecil,	Mo.	Special
Waconda,	Marion,	Oregon,	12,951
West,	Inogoch,	Pa.	14,148
Williams,	Alleghany,	Pa.	2,645
Yorkville,	Kendall,	Ill.	15,985

DISCONTINUED.

In the annexed list will be found added, the names of the nearest Post Offices for those having been discontinued, should be sent.

NAME.	COUNTY & STATE.	NEAREST OFFICE.
Anselm,	Gallia, Ohio,	Kygar
Attica Centre,	Wyoming, N. Y.	Attica
Agriola,	Mahaska, Iowa,	Oskaloosa
Albany,	Sonoma, Cal.	Santa Rosa
Bouquette,	Clay, Neb.	Beatrice
Alba,	Hancock, Ohio,	Finley
Beulah,	De Kalb, Ill.	Freeport
Big River Mills,	St. Francis, Mo.	Springton
Bluff Creek,	Mahaska, Iowa,	Edwards, Wapell-Ida Co
Brown's Valley,	Montgomery, In.	Waveland
Bridgeport,	Cooper, Mo.	Lamine
Langston,	Lingston, Mo.	11,114
Besseville,	Bollinger,	Fredericktown
Blue Mound,	Macou, Ill.	Decatur
Bliss For Co's,	Newport, R. I.	Full River, Mass.
Burns Mills,	St. Francis, Mo.	Springton
Bouquette,	Westmoreland,	Pa. Salem Cross Roads
Centerton,	Salem, N. J.	Canton
Candenville,	Anderson, Ky.	Lawrenceburgh
Cross Roads,	Inona, Min.	Wica
Carrollville,	Washington, Iowa	Washington
Dillon,	Phelps, Mo.	Rolla
Atchison, Mo.	Linden	Linden
Emmettville,	Randolph, Ind.	Fairview
Folk's Station,	Barrison, Ohio,	Chillicothe
Flat Woods,	Phelps, Mo.	Rolla
Fremont's Orch.	Weld, Col.	Latham
Fond du Lac	St. Louis, Min.	Duluth
Fountain,	Jancau, Wis.	Mill Haven
Galway,	Simpson, Ky.	Franklin
Gainsborough,	Van Buren, Iowa,	Union
Grafton,	Posey, Ind.	Mount Vernon
Gayoso,	Pemiscot, Mo.	Cottonwood
Herron,	Camden, Mo.	Asboth
Hazel Run Mills,	St. Francis, Mo.	Farmington
Hampton,	Platte, Mo.	Platte City
Johnston Grove,	Story, Iowa,	Nevada
Jacobsville,	Lander, Nev.	Austin
Kearneysville,	Jefferson, W. Va.	Shepherdstown
Kendall,	Franklin, Pa.	Liberty
Keefeville,	Franklin, Pa.	Chambersburg
Little Compton,	Carroll, Mo.	Brunswick
Lovilla,	Hannibal, Ill.	McLeansboro
Mill,	Hunterdon, N. J.	Clinton
Lillian Springs,	Weld, Col. T.	Latham
Liberty,	Benton, Oregon,	Corvallis
McCaulley's,	Defiance, Ohio,	Brunersburgh
Monte Fur co's,	Madison, Wis.	Sauzonville
Millville,	Jo. Davies, Ill.	Leadsville
New Interest,	Randolph, W. Va.	Ladsville
O'Fallon's Bluff,	Union, Neb.	Latham
Olan, Iowa,	Fayette,	West Union
Oran,	Mills,	Glenwood
Pacific City,	Madison, Ind.	Anderson
Prosperity,	Union, Iowa,	Wigona
Rigo,	Ind. Ind.	Stee Hante
Rulandville,	Schoharie, N. Y.	Jefferson
St. Augustine,	Cecil, Md.	Cheapsake City
Sinclair,	Morgan, Ill.	Jacksonville
Salem,	Merced, Pa.	Kenard
Tyrone,	Coshocton, Ohio,	West Bedford

Tuttle's Cor's, Sussex, N. J.
Union Set'mt, Oswego, N. Y.
Valley Point, Preston, W. Va.
Vandyke, Des Moines, Iowa, Burlington
West Fremont, Sandusky, Ohio, Fremont
West Lake, Howell, Mo., Thomasville

NAMES CHANGED.

Concordia, Darke, Ohio, to Wiley Station.
East Enterprise, Switzerland, Ind., to Allenaville.
Illinoistown, St. Clair, Ill., to East St. Louis.
Leatherwood, Lawrence, Ind., to Erie.
Lendon, Benton, Iowa, to Hoblin.
Murat's Building, Ohio, to Royal Oak.
Leadville, Meade, Ky., to Hill Grove.
North Fairhaven, Bristol, Mass., to Acushnet.
Ottawa Centre, Franklin, Kan., to Ottawa.
Pittsburg, Kan., to Pittsburg.
White Oak Grove, Pike, Ind., to Westell.
Number Three, Aroostook, Me., to West Sherman.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Placerville, El Dorado, Cal., John P. Pinkham.

RE-OPENED.

Bayview, Northampton, Va.
London, Roane, Tenn.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Accomack, Accomack, Va., Mrs. Nellie Parramore.
Bloomfield Junction, Saginaw, Mich., Mrs. Esther Marsh.

Chatham, Buchanan, Iowa, Mrs. Martha L. Moser.
Bicksville, Defiance, Ohio, Miss Ruth C. Albertson.
Harrison City, Westmoreland, Pa., Mrs. Martha Bin-son.

Jamaica Plains, Norfolk, Mass., Mrs. M. A. Robinson.
James Switch, Marion, Ind., Mrs. Mary M. Rieger.
Mount Kato, Westchester, N. Y., Mrs. Emily Fern.

North East Centre, Dutchess, N. Y., Mrs. Amelia L. Thoma.
Poolville, Madison, N. Y., Mrs. Mary T. Peck.
Queensdown, Queen Anne, Md., Mrs. Jennie S. Thoma.

Round Hill, Adams, Pa., Miss Sarah Taylor.
Uffington, Monongalia, W. Va., Miss Virginia Kern.
West Alexandria, Washington, Pa., Mrs. Elizabeth Ray.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid,) excepting those written to the President or Vice-President, or by officers of government, addressed to the department with which they are connected, and on official business, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, prepayment in money being prohibited. All letters must be prepaid at the rate of two cents per half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, by postage stamps. If not prepaid, the double rate is to be charged.

The single rate of postage on all domestic mail letters throughout the United States is three cents per half ounce, with an additional rate of three cents for each additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce. The former ten cent (Pacific) rate is abolished.

RATES OF LETTER POSTAGE BETWEEN OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES, AND TO AND FROM CANADA AND OTHER BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES
To and from Canada, 10c. per oz., irrespective of distance.

To and from other British N. Am. Provinces, for distance not over 3,000 miles, 10 cts.
For any distance over 3,000 miles, 15 "

For any additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

Letters to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever.

Daguerotypes, when sent in the mail, are to be charged with letter postage by weight.
Photographs on cards, paper, and other flexible material, (not in cases,) can be sent at the same rate as miscellaneous printed matter—viz., two cents for each four ounces or fraction thereof.

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Postmasters are authorized to pay for each letter addressed to the United States by sea or by air, from a foreign port, (not carrying the mail,) two cents, and for each letter addressed to the United States brought by any vessel on inland waters, (not carrying the mail,) one cent. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

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to one address, not over 4 oz. in weight, 2 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 4 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 6 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 8 cts.

By a recent order of the Postmaster General, the new subdivision of the 42d instruction of the new Post Office Law, has been amended by striking out the word twelve and inserting thirty-two before the word ounces, so that it shall read as follows: "The weight of packages of seeds, cuttings, roots and sections, to be franked, is limited to thirty-two ounces."

All mail matter not sent at letter rates of postage, embracing books, book manuscripts, proof-sheets, and other printed matter, and all other mail matter except seeds, must be so wrapped or enveloped with open sides or ends as to enable the postmaster to examine the package without destroying the wrapper, otherwise such packages must be rated with letter postage. No communication, whether in writing or in print, can be sent with any seeds, roots, cuttings or sections, maps, engravings or other matter not printed, except upon the separate payment of postage upon each separate matter at the established rates.

Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be remailed without being chargeable with postage. Weekly newspapers and all other printed matter to the British North American Provinces, although sent from countries bordering on the line, are chargeable with the same rates as when sent to any point in the United States.

Transit matter must be prepaid by stamps. But if it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or short-paid, the unpaid postage must be collected on delivery at double the prepaid rate.

Great neglect exists in the strict quarterly prepayment of postage on printed matter sent to regular subscribers. No such paper should be delivered, unless it is either prepaid at the mailing office, or at the office of delivery, or by a quarter. If not prepaid, postmasters must collect postage on each copy as on transient matter. If they fail, they will be charged with the full postage due, and in cases of renewal from office for office.

To inclose or conceal a letter or other thing (except bills and receipts for subscription) in, or to write or print anything, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects the matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marking or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, other than the name and address of the person to whom it is to be sent, and the date when subscription expires, subjects the package to letter postage.

Time Occupied in the Transmission of Letters from Distant Points to N. Y. City.

From	Days.	From	Days.
Bangor, Me.	10	Memphis, Tenn.	4 to 6
Baltimore, Md.	3 to 4	Missouri, Mo.	1 to 2
Beaufort, S. C.	3 to 4	New Mexico, N. M.	20
Beaufort, N. C.	4 to 6	Natches, Miss.	11 to 13
Concord, N. H.	4 to 6	New Orleans, La.	7 to 8
Chicago, Ill.	2	New York, N. Y.	1
Cincinnati, Ohio	2	Newbern, N. C.	3 to 6
California, overland	25	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1
Colorado Terr.	12 to 15	Portland, Me.	1 to 2
Detroit, Mich.	2	Port Royal, S. C.	3 to 6
Florida, Fla.	12 to 15	Richmond, Va.	2
Galveston, Tex.	12 to 15	St. Louis, Mo.	2 to 3
Fernandina, Fla.	7 to 10	St. Paul, Minn.	5 to 6
Indianapolis, Ind.	2	St. Augustine, Fla.	10 to 12
Key West, Fla.	10 to 15	St. Charles, Mo.	2
Little Rock, Ark.	8 to 10	St. John, N. B.	10 to 15
Louisville, Ky.	2	Wash. Terr. Y.	30 to 40
Madison, Wis.	2	Ind. Terr. Y.	30 to 40
Montreal, Can.	10 to 15		

POST OFFICE BLANKS.

The agencies for supplying postmasters with blanks are as follows:

DISTRICT NO. 1.—Supplies blanks for the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California and Oregon Territory, and Washington Territory. Postmasters in other of these States or Territories, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "J. Guest, Blank Agent, Washington, District of Columbia."

DISTRICT NO. 2.—Supplies blanks for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California and Oregon Territory, and Washington Territory. Postmasters in other of these States or Territories, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "Beverly Clarke, Blank Agent, New York, N. Y."

DISTRICT NO. 3.—Supplies blanks for the States of Mississippi, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Postmasters in either of these States or Territories, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "A. F. Lee, Blank Agent, Buffalo, N. Y."

When the postage collected at an office amounts to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on the post bills. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$12 50 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping paper and twine, at the above agencies.

Applications for blank registers of arrival and departure of the mails must be made direct to the "Inspection Office." For special instructions, to the First Assistant Postmaster General.

All postmasters whose compensation is less than \$12 per quarter, can purchase a reasonable quantity of wrapping paper and twine, provided the proceeds of the office exceed twenty dollars per year.

Mail Bags and Locks.

DEPOSITORIES.—The following post offices are constituted depositories for mail bags and locks, viz.: Portland and Bangor, Me., Concord, N. H., Montpelier and Rutland, Vt., Boston, Mass., Providence, R. I., Hartford and New Haven, Conn., New York, Albany, Rochester and Buffalo, N. Y., Trenton, N. J., Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburg, Penn., Baltimore, Md., Washington, D. C., Richmond, Wheeling and Abingdon, Va., Raleigh and Asheville, N. C., Charleston and Columbia, S. C., Augusta, Savannah and Columbus, Ga., Tallahassee, Fla., Mobile, Montgomery and Huntsville, Ala., Jackson and Natchez, Miss., New Orleans, La., Little Rock, Ark., Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis, Tenn., Louisville, Ky., Columbus, Cincinnati and Chicago, Ill., St. Louis, Indianapolis, Ind., Springfield, Mo., Milwaukee, Wis., Keokuk and Dubuque, Iowa, Galveston, Clarksville and Nacogdoches, Texas; San Francisco, Cal., and Astoria, Oregon.

IMPORTANT TABLE.

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UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES. * 10 cents when not over 3,000 miles from the line of crossing. * 15 cents when distance exceeds 3,000 miles. To Canada, 10c. Prepayment optional. Steamers of the Cunard line sail from Boston twice each month, touching at Halifax, and when letters are sent by that conveyance for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island, the U. S. postage is 5 cents the single rate, to be prepaid. The inland rate is collected on delivery. On newspapers by this route, the postage is two cents each.

Newspapers and periodicals published in the United States postage to and from the line which postage must be collected at the office of mailing in the United States on matter sent, and at the office of delivery in the United States on matter received. In like manner, such matter, if transmitted, is chargeable with the regular domestic transit matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States, as the case may be. Editors, however, may exchange free of expense.

Letters received from Canada, to which are annexed uncancelled United States postage stamps sufficient value to prepay the full postage chargeable thereon, should be delivered without charge by the United States offices. Valuable letters for Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen or Hamburg mail via New York, or by the Prussian closed mail via New York and Boston, as also letters addressed to Great Britain and Canada, will be registered, and the application of the person posting the same, in the same number and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States, provided that the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of twenty cents on each letter to Great Britain, and of ten cents and five cents on each letter to the other places mentioned above, is prepaid at the mailing office. Such letters should be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices, in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS, ETC.
All letters to and from foreign countries (the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, France and the British North American Provinces excepted) are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of half an ounce; double rate, if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding an ounce; quadruple rate, if exceeding an ounce, but not exceeding two ounces; and so on, charging two rates for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce over the first ounce. As this rule differs from that followed in respect to domestic letters, great care is requisite to prevent mistakes. Letters in the mail to France are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of one quarter ounce; double rate if exceeding a quarter, but not exceeding half an ounce; and so on, an additional rate being charged for each ounce or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Letters addressed to the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, and the British North American Provinces, are rated in the same manner as domestic letters, one rate being charged for each half ounce or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Postmasters should be careful, where the postage is prepaid, to collect the proper amount. They should be particular to notice the route indicated on the envelopes of letters, and to collect postage in accordance with the letters mailed at some offices, marked "via England," or "via Prussian closed mail," for a German State, are frequently taken upon the preparation of Bremen rates, and those marked "via Bremen," at Prussian closed mail, &c.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS GOING VIA FRANCE
In the case of letters to be forwarded in the British mail for transmission from England via "Marseilles," the French postage is rated at the rate of one ounce, except on letters for Java, China, Labuan, Borneo, Japan, the Moluccas and Philippine Islands, which are rated at eight cents per half ounce, and except also, on letters for Syria and Tunis, by French packet, when the single French rate is 12 cents per quarter ounce. The rates by "French mail" are in full to destination, except to the following places, viz: Aden, Batavia, Ceylon, China, cities of Turkey, in Europe, except as mentioned, via Austria, or Turkey and Spain, and Austria; to Aden, East Indies, Ceylon, China, and other countries via Suez, the seaports of the Indies, or of the sea of China to which the English packets ply; and to places beyond seas, other than those enumerated, when the limit is the port of arrival in the country of destination. Letters may be forwarded in the French mails to Moldavia, Wallachia, and Turkey in Europe, by way of France and Austria; but the postage thereon must in all cases be paid at the place of destination.

RATES ON PAMPHLETS, MAGAZINES, ETC.
On pamphlets and magazines, to or from the West coast of South America, the United States postage is four cents; and to or from all other foreign countries, (except Great Britain and the British North American Provinces,) one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce; to be collected in all cases in the United States.

Newspapers and periodicals published in foreign countries (particularly to the continent of Europe) must be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends; otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage.

ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, ETC.
To prevent mistakes at the exchange offices, it is desirable that the particular routes by which letters are to be forwarded from the United States to Europe, should be distinctly written on the covers. Letters intended for transmission in the open mail to England, should bear the direction "open mail via England;" if for transmission in the French mail, they should be directed, "via France in French mail;" if for transmission by closed mail to Prussia, they should be directed, "via Prussian closed mail;" if for transmission in the closed mail to Belgium, they should be directed "via Belgian closed mail;" and if for transmission by the New York and Bremen line to Bremen, or by the New York and Hamburg line to Hamburg, they should be directed "via Bremen," or "via Hamburg."

It is important that letters addressed to Germany and other European countries, via France, where the single rate per quarter ounce is 21 cents, should be plainly marked to be sent via France; otherwise they may be missed in the open mail to Liverpool by United States packet, the 21 cent rate per half ounce being also chargeable on letters thus forwarded.

DEPARTURE OF EUROPEAN, SOUTH PACIFIC AND HAVANA MAILS, FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1864.

Name of the Line.	Government to which belonging to.	Date of departure from New York.	Date of departure from Boston.	DESTINATION.
Applawall	U. S.	3	3	South Pacific & C. A.
Canada	U. S.	4	4	Liverpool.
Havana	U. S.	7	7	Havana.
Bremen	U. S.	7	7	Southampton & Bremen.
Dales	U. S.	7	7	Queensdown.
Havana	U. S.	10	10	Havana.
Cunard	U. S.	11	11	Liverpool.
Havana	U. S.	11	11	Havana.
Applawall	U. S.	13	13	South Pacific & C. A.
Dales	U. S.	13	13	Queensdown & Liverpool.
Havana	U. S.	14	14	Havana and Mexico.
Hamburg	U. S.	14	14	Hamburg.
Canal	U. S.	18	18	Liverpool.
Bremen	U. S.	21	21	Southampton & Bremen.
Dales	U. S.	21	21	Queensdown.
Applawall	U. S.	23	23	South Pacific, &c.
Cunard	U. S.	24	25	Liverpool.
Havana	U. S.	25	25	Havana.
Hamburg	U. S.	28	28	Southampton & Hamburg.
Dales	U. S.	28	28	Queensdown.
Havana	U. S.	28	28	Havana.

A closed mail, consisting of Letters and Newspapers for States and Cities of the German-Austrian Postal Union, and Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Greece, Ionian Islands, &c., is sent from this office semi-weekly. * Mail for the West Indies sent by this Steamer.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

COUNTRIES.	Postage on Letters.		Postage on Printed Matter.	
	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Exceeding half ounce.	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Exceeding half ounce.
Acapulco	10	2	10	2
Aden, British Mail, via Southampton	33	4	33	4
do do via Marseilles	39	4	39	4
do French mail	30	6	30	6
Adriatic, French mail	30	6	30	6
Africa, (West Coast,) British mail	30	6	30	6
Alexandretta, Prussian closed mail	30	6	30	6
do French mail	30	6	30	6
do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	30	6	30	6
do do do by Brit. pkt.	30	6	30	6
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	6	30	6
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	30	6
do do do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	30	6	30	6
do do do do by Brit. pkt.	30	6	30	6
Algeria, French mail	15	3	15	3
Altona, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 31c.)	33	4	33	4
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	33	4	33	4
do do do French mail	27	4	27	4
Antwerp, French mail	30	6	30	6
Arabia, British mail, via Southampton	33	4	33	4
do do do via Marseilles	39	4	39	4
Argentine Republic, via England	30	6	30	6
do do do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	6	30	6
Ascension, via England	45	4	45	4
Aspinwall, for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles	10	2	10	2
do do do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	20	2	20	2
Australia, British mail, via Southampton	33	4	33	4
do do do do via Marseilles	39	4	39	4
do do do do by private ship from N. York or Boston	30	6	30	6
do do do do French mail (South Amst'g, comp'ry.)	30	6	30	6
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Suez	50	10	50	10
do do do do by Bremen & Hamburg mail, via Trieste	55	10	55	10
Austria and its States, Prussian closed mail	30	6	30	6
do do do do when prepaid	28	6	28	6
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	15	3
do do do do (except prov. in Italy) French mail	21	4	21	4
Azores Island, British mail, via Portugal	23	3	23	3
Baden, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	6	30	6
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6	30	6
do do do do French mail	21	4	21	4
Bahamas, by direct steamer from New York	45	6	45	6
Bangkok, Siam, via Southampton	45	6	45	6
Batavia, British mail, via Southampton	51	4	51	4
do do do do via Marseilles	57	4	57	4
Bavaria, Prussian closed mail	30	6	30	6
do do do do when prepaid	28	6	28	6
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	15	3
do do do do French mail	21	4	21	4
Belgium, French mail	21	4	21	4
do do do do via England	21	4	21	4
do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	4	21	4
do do do do do by British packet	21	4	21	4
Belgrade, do do do by American pkt.	21	4	21	4
do do do do do by British packet	21	4	21	4
Beyrout, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	6	30	6
do do do do French mail	30	6	30	6
Bombay, New Granada	45	6	45	6
Bonina	34	4	34	4
Borneo, British mail, via Southampton	45	8	45	8
do do do do via Marseilles	51	8	51	8
do do do do French mail	30	6	30	6
Bourbon, British mail, via Southampton	30	6	30	6
do do do do via Marseilles	39	4	39	4
do do do do French mail	30	6	30	6
Brazil, via England	55	4	55	4
do do do do via France in French mail from Bordeaux	53	6	53	6
Bremen, Prussian closed mail	30	6	30	6
do do do do when prepaid	28	6	28	6
do do do do Bremen mail	10	2	10	2
do do do do Hamburg mail	15	3	15	3
do do do do French mail	21	4	21	4
Br. N. Am. Prov. exc'pt Canada, dia. not over 3000m.	10	2	10	2
do do do do exceeding 3000 miles	15	2	15	2
Brunswick, Prussian mail	30	6	30	6
do do do do when prepaid	28	6	28	6
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	15	3
do do do do French mail	21	4	21	4
Buenaventura	48	6	48	6
Buenos Ayres, via England	30	6	30	6
do do do do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	6	30	6
Caifia, Prussian closed mail	38	6	38	6
Canada	10	2	10	2
Canary Islands, via England	33	4	33	4
do do do do (if prepaid, 35c.)	34	6	34	6
do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	4	21	4
do do do do do by British packet	21	4	21	4
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	15	3
do do do do do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	6	30	6
do do do do do French mail	21	4	21	4
Cape of Good Hope, via England	45	4	45	4
Cape de Verde Islands, via England	29	3	29	3
do do do do in French mail, via Bordeaux and Lisbon	30	6	30	6
Carthage	18	6	18	6
C. Amer. Pac. Slope, via Panama (exc. Guatemala and Costa Rica)	20	2	20	2
Ceylon, open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	6	21	6
do do do do do by British packet	5	6	5	6
do do do do do French mail	30	6	30	6
do do do do do via Southampton	39	4	39	4
do do do do do via Marseilles	30	6	30	6
China, British mail, via Southampton	45	6	45	6
do do do do do via Marseilles	51	6	51	6
do do do do do by Br'm or Hamb'g mail, via Marseilles & Suez	40	7	40	7
do do do do do by Br'm or Hamb'g mail, via Marseilles & Trieste	40	7	40	7
do do do do do by Br'm or Hamb'g mail, via Marseilles & Suez	40	7	40	7
do do do do do by Br'm or Hamb'g mail, via Marseilles & Trieste	40	7	40	7
do do do do do by Br'm or Hamb'g mail, via Marseilles & Suez	40	7	40	7
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UNION STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. IV., No. 9.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1864.

WHOLE No. 45.

For the U. S. Mail.

Waiting for a Letter.

Watching at the window, looking up the street,
Waiting for the coming of the postman's feet;
Weary days of waiting, weary nights of pain,
Father, mother, sister, waiting all in vain.

Waiting for a letter from the absent one;
Heartack and some tidings of the soldier son,
Gallant, brave and loving, which has stayed his pen?
Has there been a battle? God preserve him then!

"Tidings from the army," forward is the word;
Constant talk of marching now is only heard;
Then, a little later, on th' electric wire
Flashes news of battle and of carnage dire.

Later still and later; all is known at last!
Wounded, dead or dying, where is his lot cast?
He the brave and daring, best beloved of all,
Ever in the front rank, if to fight or fall!

Letters come once weekly; now a month has fled;
Is he sick or wounded? tell us, is he dead?
Who shall answer truly, questions such as these,
Coming from the watchers on their heeded knees?

Hark! the postman enters. Now, a letter's gone;
Open it and read it; is he coming home?
Father, mother, sister! stay the falling tear,
He is coming, coming, but upon his bier.

WILLIAM E. PARSON.

Harlem, N. Y. May, 1864.

From the Baltimore American.

Postal Reforms.—Important Changes.

Of the many subjects of special interest commended from time to time to the attention of the American people in the way of administrative reforms and improvements, nothing has perhaps marked the progress of the age more plainly than the great advancement made in postal matters. The new "money order" system, although long in use abroad, is just about to be brought into use here as a most beneficial improvement on the old method of transmitting small sums of money over a wide extent of country, whilst in the other changes contemplated by Congress at the suggestion of the Postmaster General, the enlightened friends of the Government will see that our progress is encouraging in the attempt to keep in the front rank of an enlightened advancement.

Among these changes, however, is one which, in itself eminently a reform, seems to have produced not a little alarm amongst the many postmasters relied upon for an enlightened co-operation in carrying out the business of the Department; and this expressed fear is on the score of a possible curtailment of their rates of compensation. Nothing is further from such a result, as will be learned by a brief explanation of the matter in question. As the case stands at present, the thousand folios of transcript are sent to Washington each quarter, from but few post offices, to enable the Auditor to keep the office accounts correctly. The reform in question proposes to do away with all this, to so simplify the method of doing business, that whilst all parties are saved immense labor and perplexity, the compensation of the postmaster remains the same, which has the best explanation of what is contemplated in the direction indicated can be had from a letter addressed by the Postmaster General himself to the Chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads of the House of Representatives. We give an extract:

"The first seven sections refer to the mode of compensating postmasters, a subject which has heretofore claimed the attention of Congress, and one which I consider of the first importance to this Department. The following are among the more prominent reasons which present themselves to my mind in favor of fixed salaries instead of commissions for postmasters:

"Under the existing law, minute accounts are kept of the postage on all mail matter sent and received, paid as well as unpaid, involving the necessity of employing many clerks in post offices for this particular purpose, and also in the office of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, where the accounts of postmasters are examined.

"Thus, from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Chicago, only five post offices, fifty thousand folios of transcript are sent to the Auditor each quarter, the originals being kept in those offices. The whole bulk of accounts from all the post offices can be reckoned by tons and they are mainly kept for the purpose of arriving at the allowances to postmasters, which are estimated on the amount of postage collected. For any other purpose the accounts of mails sent and received are practically useless. The great mass of mail matter is prepaid by postage stamps, which are charged to postmasters, and for which they are held accountable. In this way, the revenues of the Department are sufficiently protected. If, then, the compensation of postmasters be fixed, as proposed by the bill in question, no accounts will be required of mail matter prepaid by stamps, and the work in all the post offices will be expedited, with a great saving of labor and expense. The accounting in the Auditor's office of this Department will be much simplified, and there will be no difficulty in holding postmasters to strict responsibility each quarter; whereas, now, in the ordinary course of business, the accounts of a postmaster for a given quarter cannot be adjusted until after the end of the next quarter.

"There will also be a considerable saving in the items of blanks for post offices. The estimated cost of paper and printing next year is nearly one hundred thousand dollars, while the proposed changes in the form of accounts will require less than one-half of that expenditure.

"The present law limits the commissions of postmasters to two thousand dollars per annum, and also forbids allowances from other sources beyond that amount; so that, in fact, the postmasters of all the post offices already have fixed salaries, (in no case exceeding four thousand dollars per annum) though they can only be paid after presenting voluminous accounts on each and every letter mailed, and of numerous rates of commissions, differing according to the character of the mail matter, and also according to amount, there being no less than ten rates. Other changes and credits in an account current number twenty-five, making in all thirty-five heads of calculation; whereas, by the proposed new law, all accounts will be reduced to the simplest forms.

"The rule for fixing salaries is such as to ensure ample justice to all offices; and the provision for revising the classification must have the effect to stimulate postmasters in performing their duties, lest they should suffer a reduction of salary for a diminished business whilst they have the assurance of a proper addition for an enlarged business.

"The reasons for special legislation in the case of the post office at New York are obvious. Its net revenues to the Department are now at the rate of nearly one million of dollars per annum, one hundred per cent. above every other office. The business connection with the foreign mails alone entitles that office to a separate classification, while its other interests and responsibilities are equally commanding, and entitle it to a corresponding distinction in respect to emolument.

"These are interesting facts bearing upon the needed and contemplated reform, facts in which the people are vitally interested, because the more simple the machinery of government can be made, the more efficient and economical it approaches that standard which since the foundation of republican institutions in this country, has been the desideratum sought.

"To recur briefly, the contemplated reform proposes to divide the compensation of postmasters into five classes, the first to receive not more than four and not less than three thousand dollars per annum, the fifth, which from the largeness done affords less than one hundred dollars. By increase of business an office may be elevated to a higher class, thus presenting a stimulant to each officer to do his duty in every respect. The post office incumbents should have this reform as one which, whilst it does not curtail their salaries at all, relieves them of the cumbersome and perplexing part of their labors and responsibilities; and the people at large should hail it as one which, less costly, ensures more promptitude and leisure for due service on the part of public functionaries. It is only within the past few years that the most striking and useful improvements in a branch of the public service so necessary to the welfare of the nation, have been accomplished in this direction, we are prepared to welcome with our best wishes whatever may make it still more perfect in its capacity to benefit society and the world at large.

The Flying Post-Office.

The following description of the operations of the English "Flying Post-office," by which the mails in that country are sorted and distributed in transit, we cut from an English paper. As experiments are now being made by our own Post Office Department with a view to the introduction of similar conveniences here, the article will be interesting to our readers as showing "how it is done."

This office, which every evening flies away from London to Glasgow, and wherein Government clerks are busily employed in receiving, delivering, and sorting letters all the way, is a narrow carpeted room, twenty-one feet in length by about seven in breadth, lighted by four large reflecting lamps inserted in the roof, and by another in a corner for the guard. Along about two-thirds of the length of this chamber there is affixed to the side wall a narrow table or counter, covered with green cloth, beneath which various letter bags are stowed away, and above which the space up to the roof is divided into six shelves fourteen feet in length, each containing thirty-five pigeon-holes about the size of one little compartment in a dove-cote. At this table, and immediately fronting these pigeon-holes, there were standing as we flew along, three post-office clerks intently occupied in convulsively snatching up from the green-cloth counter, and in dexterously inserting into the various pigeon-holes, a mass of letters which lay before them, and which, when exhausted, were instantly replaced from bags which the senior clerk cut open, and which the guard who had presented them then shook out for assortment. On the right of the chief clerk the remaining one-third of the carriage was filled nearly to the roof with letter-bags of all sorts and sizes, and which the able-bodied post-office guard dressed in his shirt-sleeves and laced waistcoat, was hauling at and adjusting according to their respective brass labels. At this laborious occupation the clerks continue standing for about four hours and a half; that is to say, the first set sorts letters from London to Tamworth, the second from Tamworth to Preston, the third from Preston to Carlisle, and the fourth from Carlisle to Glasgow. The clerks employed in this duty do not permanently reside at any of the above stations, but are usually removed from one to the other every three months.

As we sat reclining and ruminating in the corner, the scene was as interesting as it was extraordinary. In consequence of the rapid rate at which we were travelling, the bags which were hanging from the thirty brass pegs on the sides of the office had a tremulous motion, which at every jerk of the train was changed for a moment or two into a slight rolling or pendulous movement, like towels, &c., hanging in a cabin at sea. While the guard's face, besides glistening with perspiration, was from the labor of stooping and hauling at large letter-bags—as red as his scarlet coat which was hanging before the wall on a little peg, until at last his cheeks appeared as if they were shining at the lamp above them almost as ruddily as the lamp shone upon them—the three clerks were actively engaged moving their right hands in all directions, working vertically with the same dexterity with which composers in a printing-office horizontally restore their type into the various small compartments to which each letter belongs. Sometimes a clerk was seen to throw into various pigeon-holes a batch of mourning letters, all directed in the same handwriting, and evidently announcing some death; then one or two registered letters wrapped in green covers. For some time another clerk was solely employed in stuffing into bags newspapers for various destinations. Occasionally the guard leaving his bags, was seen to poke his burly head out of a large window behind him into pitch darkness, enlivened by the occasional passage of bright sparks from the funnel-pipe of the engine to ascertain by the flashing of the lamps as he passed them the precise moment of the train clearing certain stations, in order that he might record it in his "time-bill." Then again a strong smell of burning sealing-wax announced that he

was sealing up, and stamping with the post-office seal, bags, three or four of which he then firmly strapped together for delivery. All of a sudden, the flying chamber received a hard sharp blow, which resounded exactly as if a cannon-shot had struck it. This noise, however, merely announced that a station post was over at that moment passing, but which was already far behind us, had just been safely delivered of four letter-bags, which on putting our head out of the window, we saw quietly lying in the far end of a large, strong iron-bound sort of landing-net or cradle, which the guard a few minutes before had by a simple movement lowered on purpose to receive them. But not only had we received our bags but at the same moment, and apparently by the same blow, we had as we flew by, dropped at the same station three bags, which a post-office authority had been waiting there to receive. The blow that the pendant bag of letters, moving at the rate of fifty miles an hour receives in being suddenly snatched away, must be rather greater than that which the flying one receives on being suddenly at that rate dropped on the road. Both operations, however, are effected by a projecting apparatus from the flying post-office coming suddenly into contact with that protruding from the post.

As fast as the clerks could fill the pigeon-holes before them, the letters were quickly taken therefrom, tied up into a bundle, and then by the guard deposited into the leather bag to which they belonged. On very closely observing the clerks as they worked, we discovered that, instead of sorting their letters into the pigeon-holes according to their superscriptions, they placed them into compartments of their own arrangement, and which were only correctly labelled in their own minds, but as every clerk held answerable for the accuracy of his assortment, he is very properly allowed to execute it in whatever way may be most convenient to his mind or hand.

Besides lame writing and awkward spelling, it was curious to observe what a quantity of irrelevant nonsense is superscribed upon many letters as if the writer's object was purposely to conceal from the sorting clerk the only fact he ever cares to ascertain, namely, the post town. Their patience and intelligence, however, are really beyond all praise; and although sometimes they stand for nearly eight or ten seconds holding a letter close to their lamp, turning sometimes their head, and then, yet it rarely happens that they fail to decipher it. In opening one bag, a lady's postcard work box appeared all in silver. It had been packed in the thinnest description of white-brown paper. The clerk spent nearly two minutes in searching among the fragments for the direction, which he at last discovered in very pale ink, written apparently through a microscope with the point of a needle. The letters sorted in the flying post-office are, excepting a few "late letters," principally cross-post letters, which, although packed into one bag are for various localities. For instance, at Stafford the mail takes up a bag made up for Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and intermediate places, the letters for which, being intermixed, are sorted by the way, and left at the several stations.

The bags have also to be allowed away in complete accordance with their respective destinations. One lot for Manchester, Liverpool, and Dublin; one for Chester; a bundle of bags for Newcastle-under-Lyme, Market Drayton, Ecclestone, Stone, Crewe, Rhuahon; a quantity of empty bags to be filled coming back; a lot for Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Carlisle, and one great bag containing all the letter-bags for Dublin taken upon the road.

The minute arrangements necessary for the transaction of all this important business at midnight, while the train is flying through the dark, it would be quite impossible to describe. The occupation is not only highly confidential, but it requires unceasing attention, exhausting to boot at some time ago, while the three clerks, with their right elbows moving in all directions, were vigorously engaged in sorting their letters, and while the guard, with the light of his lamp shining on the gilt buttons and gold lace, which emblazoned the pockets of his waistcoat, was busily sealing a letter bag, a collision took place, which, besides killing four men, at the same moment checked the sorting clerks from their pigeon-holes to the letter-bags in the guard's compartment. In due time the chief clerk recovered from the shock; but what had happened—why he was lying on the letter-bags—why nobody was sorting—until he recovered from his stupor he could not imagine.

Mormon Postage Stamps.

A writer in the "Stamp Collector's Review," tells the following story in relation to that rarely known to collectors of curious stamps by the name of the "Mormon Stamp." For its truth, we do not vouch:

"From enquiries made respecting this Mormon Stamp, I find the following particulars, which may be interesting to the Collector. On the fourth of April, 1852, Brigham Young, calling himself 'President of the Mormon Colony,' issued a Postage Stamp, value five cents, having his effigy upon it, and instructed his agents throughout Utah to make use of it as a mode of prepaying letters in his territory. This, of course, was acknowledged as a legal stamp in Utah, and was in use up to May, 1853, when Young, wishing to despatch some bags of letters to England, affixed the five-cent stamps to the letters to be sent, intending to cheat the United States Government of about three thousand dollars. On the arrival of his sacks of letters at Washington, en route for New York, they were opened for the purpose of being stamped, when the postmaster, thinking to find the government stamp, found Brigham Young's instead. He not only repudiated the stamps, but refused either to forward or return the letters until Young paid the full postage in United States gold coin. Soon after this the stamps disappeared from Utah. Doubtless Young was taught a severe lesson, having to pay the full postage, amounting to nearly three thousand dollars.

SENTINEL OF ENLIGHTENMENT.—ROBERT D. Eggleston, arrested at Oswego on April 1, by Special Agent Sharretts, paid guilty, on 24th inst., to purloining letters from the post office at that place, and was sentenced to six months imprisonment and a fine of \$500. This comparatively light sentence, we learn, was the result of mitigating circumstances of a peculiar nature.

Sketch of the late Mr. Holbrook

[Some years ago a series of lively papers appeared in the columns of the *New York Leader*, which embodied off-hand sketches of most of the celebrities of the day. The title of the series was, "People we Meet; or, Up and Down the Adirondack Shilling Side," and contained some admirable pen-pictures of well-known personages who might be met during a stroll on Broadway. Among them appeared the following portrait of the late Mr. Holbrook, which we reprint, thinking that our readers will be interested in its perusal as presenting its subject to the mind's eye "in his habit as he lived."

Very agile, very dapper, dressed in neat professional black, and always looking as if he had just dressed for a visit to his beloved "Department," this gentleman rather below the middle height, and of slender, but active build, with piercingly keen blue eyes framed under heavy black eyebrows, in florid New England features, and these again framed in a dense black growth of oval whiskers—this active and perplexingly subtle physiognomist, whose quick blue eyes seem to flash into the very depths of your nature, is Mr. JAMES HOLBROOK, author of "Ten years among the Mail Bags," and for the last fifteen years or more, the most trusted and reliable Special Agent of the Post Office Department.

Born to fulfil precisely his present business, with instincts which have never misled or deceived him, and with a magnetic power which extracts confidence and confession from the least promising natures—James Holbrook, we scruple not to say, has done more real public service, and prevented more public injuries, in the Department with which he is connected, than can be readily imagined by any who have not been initiated into the mysteries of post office routine. The very nature of his business prevents its general recognition: the complex investigations through which he marches to a result expected from the first, are not of the kind which it would do to ventilate, and more eager to be useful than to be praised for being so, he does his utmost to suppress any public mention of his name in the announcement of those discoveries and detections which his perseverance and acuteness have accomplished. We hear of leaks discovered in the New England and New York districts, frauds detected, errors corrected, mail robbers arrested, and immense sums, sent through the post office and long mourned as lost, suddenly restored to their rightful owners; but nothing is said in the notices of these matters to point attention to the omnipresent, ever-working Special Agent, whose invisible, but certain hand has wielded the sword of justice, and pulled the wires by which these strange effects are produced. It is not too much to say that the money rescued and restored in any average week of Mr. Holbrook's service, would more than pay the insignificant salary which is allowed him for the year, while in the more important character of a preventive to crime—an ominous overshadowing retribution constantly at hand—felt in all the departments of the service, and dreaded by the guilty, his reputation and his value cannot possibly be over-estimated. Despite his hard experience of human infirmity and error, he carries a sound, warm, generous heart into all his relations; and his little country-seat in beloved Connecticut is a secure haven of domestic peace, to which he flies for rest and relaxation in the few unoccupied moments of his busy and anxious life. Wherever James Holbrook travels, be sure that the telegraph wires are flashing words of doom to those who suspect nothing of his presence; the keen blue eyes are reading terrible stories every where, and the compact, energetic mind is weaving all the minute details of guilt into one consistent and unbroken chain. Enjoying the fullest confidence of government, and famed for penetration in all the departments of secret investigation, his services are sometimes called into requisition in difficult cases outside the post office limits; and it is but recently that a tempting offer was made to him to engage as Superintendent Chief of an organized detective force in a more remunerative, but less prominent position. He still holds on to the Department, however, believing that Congress will some day or other have the justice to listen to the repeated applications of different Postmasters General in his favor. "He is a deserving officer, and one whose loss it would be almost impossible to replace. He is not often to be seen on the Plaza, except when returning to or leaving his hotel; and but few of the thousands who note his busy eyes in passing, are aware of the obligations which this community are under to our esteemed protector of the mails.

COMMEMORABLE ECONOMY.—In these times of extravagance, it is quite refreshing to encounter such a specimen of the art of "making the most of things" as the following:—

POST OFFICE, PUTNAM, CONN.
Editor U. S. Mail.—The piece of wrapping paper, enclosed, has "travelled" rather more than pieces of that size usually do, it having passed, back and forth, between Thompson and this office, seven or four times, covering packages of letters.

Thinking that it might possibly make an item for the "Mail," I send it you. We very often use a piece twenty and even thirty times, but have never before "put one through" as this has been.
C. H. B.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BOSTON AND BUFFALO.
I am pleased to see that some very wholesome effects have been produced by my letters. Although originally regarded as an impertinent grumbler, and a meddler in matters that did not concern me, yet my points were so well taken, and my strictures so justifiable, that a general awakening has been the result. Desperate diseases require severe remedies.

In Russia, a traveller never knows that his nose is frozen until he is suddenly seized by some good Samaritan, who incontinently applies a handful of snow to the affected organ by way of a counter-irritant, and saves it.

The remedy is short, sharp and decisive, and no doubt seriously ruffles the temper of the astonished victim; but gratitude comes with an explanation, and having saved his *smeller*, he never forgets the gratuitous kindness.

The attention of many postmasters has been called to the management of their offices through the *U. S. Mail*, who, engaged in other pursuits, confided their official trust to assistants and clerks, always supposing and believing that it was proper and competent for them to do so; but they find how much they were mistaken, upon examination and inquiry into the mode and manner in which their business is done. Their "first-rate" employees are found to be careless, indifferent and very frequently incompetent, and their own eyes are opened to the convincing fact that they have been very derelict themselves. Very frequently, these erring gentlemen take shelter behind those antiquated harriers, "always been the custom here," which is well enough if the business is done properly and satisfactorily; but on this point I am very sceptical, as I think it quite as impossible to confine the labor and discipline of a modern post office within these ancient metes and bounds, as it would be to dispense with the many hundred conveniences which have been given to us by inventors and utilitarians of our day.

In the distribution of patronage, I think the Post Office Department under the present administration has been peculiarly successful; for although an appointment to office does not necessarily carry capacity with it, yet wherever my self-appointed caponage has brought me in contact with these gentlemen, I have generally found them intelligent and endowed with the essential qualifications requisite for their official positions.

But while, as I have intimated, the administration has been peculiarly happy, and may be said to have discharged its whole duty in its post office appointments, by placing at the head of these establishments in the conduct of which every one is more or less interested, gentlemen of acknowledged ability for the place, the end to be attained is sometimes, I am sorry to say, frustrated by the careless, ill-considered appointment of subordinates.

A person to be eligible to the position of clerk in any post office should be not only intelligent, active and prompt in the discharge of his various duties, but he should be essentially a gentleman. Brought in contact as he is with the community at large in which his office is located, he should be one whose social culture is such, that the most refined lady in the land may be able to avail herself of his services without danger of having her sense of propriety shocked by any breach of those little rules of etiquette, the observance of which goes so far to establish one's claim to the name of a well-bred and efficient business man.

The position of Assistant Postmaster is a very important one in a large office—in indeed in every office where such a functionary is necessary. He should be familiar with the duties of his office, in all its ramifications, and by his example and influence should strive to stimulate the clerks under him to perform their duties with alacrity, dignity and carefulness.

"As the twig is bent the tree's inclined"

is a horn-bowl proverb, particularly applicable to the moral training of juveniles; but as men are but children of a larger growth, Assistant Postmasters may draw an inference, and act accordingly.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

Letter Addresses.

Go, little mislive, your mission fulfil,
O'er meadow, o'er lawn, o'er grove and o'er rill,
Go, go, to the home, the home of my friend,
And carry the word by thee I would send,
When thou reachest the place to which thou art sent,
To discharge thy mission for which thou art bent,
Ask for "CHARLES C. BANKS," of literary (?) renown,
State of Massachusetts," of "Foxborough" town.

To a young man—his name is Nick,
To New York city, sans delay,
Into the box of Brown & Co.
He lives in *Bedford*—to which please send
The enclosed lines in anger penned;
The state is the one Billy Penn (sylvania) founded,
And part of the way by New York is bounded.

I'd have this letter find its way
To New York city, sans delay,
Into the box of Brown & Co.
Until called for by careful Joe,
Now, Joe, don't linger! hark retreat,
To 94 in William street,
To Mr. J. Degraw give this,
And accept the compliments of Miss

UNITED STATES MAIL.



Established 1860. . . By J. HOLBROOK.
J. GAYLER, Editor.
NEW YORK, JUNE 1864.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, October 25, 1863.
DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:
Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them at as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official information on postal matters.

THE OVERLAND MAIL—IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS.

The following official instructions to postmasters concerning the mail matter by the overland route, have been issued by the Department:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, APPOINTMENT OFFICE, WASHINGTON, May 28, 1864.

SIR: Your attention is particularly called to the fourth section of the act to provide for carrying the mails from the United States to foreign ports, and for other purposes, approved March 3, 1864, which provides "that all *mail matter*, conveyed by mail westward beyond the western boundary of Kansas and eastward from the eastern boundary of California, shall be subject to *prepaid letter postage rates*, provided, however, that this section shall not be held to extend to the transmission by mail of newspapers from a known office of publication to bona fide subscribers, *not exceeding one copy to each subscriber*, at the usual rates, nor to properly franked matter."

You will perceive by the foregoing that all the mail matter, except one newspaper to a bona fide subscriber, and franked matter, may be prepaid at letter rates to entitle it to transmission through the mails by the overland route, between the points indicated.

The Postmaster General directs that you be particular in enforcing this law at your office, and see that nothing is sent forward through the mails, except in conformity with its provisions. The postmaster at St. Joseph, Mo., should be instructed to withdraw from the mails all matter coming to his office not prepaid in accordance with the provisions of this law.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
ST. JOHN B. L. SKINNER,
Acting First Assistant Postmaster General,
To Postmaster.

Postmasters throughout the country will be governed by the above instructions, and charge the rates therein prescribed on all mail matter intended for transmission by the overland route.

AN ACT IN RELATION TO FRANKED MATTER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of America in Congress assembled, That all communications relating to the official business of the Department to which they are addressed, of whatever origin, addressed to the chiefs of the several executive departments of the government, or to such principal officers of each executive department being heads of bureaus or chief clerks, or one duly authorized by the Postmaster General to frank official matter, shall be received and conveyed by mail free of postage without being indorsed "official business," or with the name of the writer.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, postmasters will hereafter forward such communications free, without requiring the endorsement of "official business" followed by the name of the writer, which, under the 42d section of the Act of March 3, 1863, has heretofore been necessary. All persons are now authorized to address unpaid communications, on official business, to heads of departments and bureaus, chief clerks, or others invested with authority to frank—a privilege formerly confined to officers connected with or responsible to the department to which their official communications were addressed.

MAIL COMMUNICATION WITH BRAZIL.—The bill to authorize the establishment of Ocean Mail Steamship service between the United States and Brazil is now being approved by President Lincoln, it is now a law. Twelve round trips are to be performed a year, in accordance with the separate contracts made with each government. The United States portion of the expense is not to exceed \$150,000 per annum. Proposals for the service in American sea-going steamships will be invited by the Postmaster-General.

To the Readers of the U. S. Mail.

Our readers will perceive that a new name appears at the head of the editorial column of the Mail, in place of the honored one of JAMES HOLBROOK, its lamented founder. In assuming the charge of the responsible duties of the position which he is called upon to fill, the new incumbent would take occasion to assure the readers of this paper that it shall be his endeavor to continue to make it in every respect in the future what it has been in the past—a useful auxiliary to all engaged in the postal service of the country, and a record of all transactions and items of interest relating to that service. Having enjoyed the privilege, for some years past, of assisting the late Mr. Holbrook both editorially and officially, the experience thereby acquired enables him to enter with more confidence upon his task than he otherwise would feel; and he hopes to fulfil that task in a manner satisfactory to his readers, and in some degree worthy of the reputation the paper has acquired under the management of his distinguished predecessor.

The Postmaster General has kindly assured him of a continuance of his official sanction and support in the enterprise, and has honored him with the commission of a Special Agent, while numerous gentlemen connected with the Department at Washington will, as heretofore, lend their aid in furnishing for publication, copies of official orders, decisions, etc. Of these advantages, it will be the aim of the present editor to avail himself to their full extent, for the benefit of his readers, whose approval he will do his best to secure, and whose good wishes for his success he respectfully asks.

With the permission of Judge Blair, the annexed letter received from him in reply to one from the editor on the subject of the future conduct of the Mail is published:

WASHINGTON, May 28, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR:—I am gratified to learn that Mr. Holbrook's newspaper is to be continued by you, by whom it has been so well conducted during his long illness, and that the family of its founder is to be benefited by this arrangement. You may rely on my aid to the enterprise, both on account of my desire for Mrs. Holbrook's welfare, and on account of the public benefit derived from the newspaper.

I wish you would make known to Mrs. Holbrook, that I deeply sympathize with her in her affliction, and that I will not fail to use any opportunity to befriend her and her family. I honor her husband's memory. He was a most useful and faithful public officer; gave his mind and efforts earnestly to the performance of his duties, and thoroughly identified himself with the interests of the service. He was a noble example of a public officer whose zeal for the service did not abate by the length of his term, and who made the public interests his primary object, and his own affairs merely secondary objects of his attention. But whilst thus devoting his efforts mainly to the promotion of public interests, he attended also, in a proper and moderate way, to his own affairs; and the newspaper established by him, now under your charge, illustrates his practical ability to blend useful public service with that proper regard for his private interests, essential to honest discharge of public duty.

Through this paper he imparted much of his own spirit of progress and zeal for the interests of the Department, to the multitudes engaged in its service. I trust you will, in continuing this publication, aim to keep alive in it the spirit of our departed friend.

We can never make the postal service what the American people have a right to expect, till the men engaged in it put their hearts into it.

Yours, truly,
M. BLAIR.

J. GAYLER, Esq., New York.

The Money Order Law.

Since our last issue, the Money Order Bill has finally passed both branches of Congress without further amendment, and is now a law. It is one of the most important postal measures enacted by Congress since the establishment of the Post Office Department, and its operation will introduce a new phase of usefulness into our postal system, and be productive of immense benefit to the public, more especially the business community. To initiate successfully a system, necessarily involving a vast amount of detail, upon a plan adapted to the needs of so extensive a territory as is covered by the mail service of this country, is of course a work requiring deliberate preparation, the exercise of great care, and the expenditure of considerable time. Undue haste in the commencement of practical operations under the law might be followed by serious embarrassment and confusion. Although, therefore, the Postmaster General will undoubtedly see that no unnecessary delay occurs in extending the benefits of the system to the people, yet no impatience should be manifested if a longer time is required for this purpose than seems necessary to those who have not given to the subject that attention which is requisite for a due appreciation of its importance. The public may be assured that the law will be placed in operation just as soon as a proper regard for their own interests will permit. Any other course would only lead to vexation and annoyance in place of the convenience and security which the system is intended to ensure.

Postage by Overland Mail.

Special attention is called to the official instructions to postmasters, published in the first column of this page, relative to the rates of postage to be charged on all mail matter forwarded by the overland mail, (with the exception of single copies of newspapers sent from regular offices of publication to bona fide subscribers, and also matter properly franked.) By the 4th Section of the Act of March 3, 1864, all such matter, with the exceptions noted above, is to be charged at letter rates. This includes all transient printed matter, books, pamphlets, maps, engravings, &c. The order is officially promulgated in this paper, and postmasters will act on its instructions at once.

NEW POSTMASTER AT CINCINNATI.—F. J. Mayer has been confirmed by the Senate as Postmaster at Cincinnati, O., vice J. C. Baum.

Discharged Soldiers in Post Offices.

The claims of those of our soldiers already discharged from the service by the expiration of their terms of enlistment, or by reason of wounds or other disabilities, as well as those whom the termination of the war will return to the peaceful pursuits which at their country's call they abandoned for the dangers of the field, are universally acknowledged, and have already largely attracted the attention of the press and the public. Already various local efforts have been made by liberal and patriotic individuals and communities, looking to the establishment of "Soldiers' Homes" and other institutions, where a portion of our scarred and battle-worn veterans can be provided with a resting place, after their retirement from the duties and perils of the noble but bloody task of upholding, against domestic treason, the old flag their fathers so well defended against foreign insult and aggression. We say a portion of them—for it is hardly necessary to say to American readers that pride—the just and proper pride which revolts against the idea of dependence in any shape—is as much an American characteristic as patriotism, and we are inclined to believe that in most cases our returning soldiers will prefer the scantiest livelihood, earned by their own exertions, to accepting a pension which risks their lives to save.

The British soldier, lamed by Russian bullets (or made a life-long invalid through the cruel starvation of red tape Crimean commissary) accepts without reluctance an asylum at Chelsea, content for the remainder of his life to vegetate in idleness at the public cost. The battered British tar finds welcome anchorage at Greenwich, with liberal store of grog and tobacco, while the *Hotel des Invalides* finds no lack of inmates from among the crippled and superannuated warriors of France. We do not say this in disparagement of those brave men—it is their right to accept the reward their country offers to their valor. But there is a marked difference between the *personnel* of the armies of the old world, and this army of ours. Our people, not our soldiers, fill its ranks—men of intellect, thought and education, born and reared to feel that a free and independent nation is formed of free and independent individuals—self-reliant, jealous of aught that seems to compromise their self-respect, and with a healthy scorn of even appearing to eat the bread of idleness. The tendency of our form of government has been to educate each man into the belief that he is, at least, "as good as anybody," and that his acceptance of anything in the guise of "charity" would be a stigma on his manhood—a blot upon the fair charter of his citizenship. Thus, though many of the plans which we have seen proposed and discussed for the establishment of "asylums," "homes," "retreats," &c., for our discharged soldiers, have incorporated into their system some method of providing, as far as possible, the elementary element—such as providing regular employment for the inmates, the proceeds of which it is proposed shall defray, in whole or in part, the cost of their maintenance—yet there is no doubt that there will always be, on the part of a large number of those for whose benefit such institutions are intended, an inveterate aversion to availing themselves of the offer thus held out to them—in short, to their imaginations.

"The scent of the almshouse will hang round it still," and that imaginary door will close the door to thousands.

We do not contend that the proposed establishments can rightly be denominated *charities*—they will be rather noble and well-deserved monuments of a people's grateful appreciation of self-sacrificing patriotism—and we trust will shelter within their walls many of those who now are bearing the heat and burden of the day of combat, long after peace and Union are restored—but none can deny that the feeling referred to will exist—and low, we believe, would confess that such feeling is the result of a feature in our national character which they would care to see extinct. "Let independence be our boast," says one of our national songs—and long may it be, both as a nation and as individuals.

A large portion of our men, when discharged, will no doubt be able at once to resume the vocations pursued by them previous to entering the army—unwounded, and with constitutions braced up and strengthened, rather than impaired, by the hardships of campaigning, they will be abundantly able and willing to take care of themselves. Others will, if unfitted by wounds or disease, find with their families and relatives a home for life; but there will be—there are now—numbers who, still physically capable of self-support in some capacity, are incapacitated by the loss of a limb, or the effects of other wounds or of disease, from continuing their former pursuits. It is of this class that we proposed to speak, when we commenced this article, and to urge upon all the plain duty of *habitually giving the preference in the matter of employment, to honorably discharged soldiers*—more especially to those whom the bullets or sabres of the enemy have decorated with the glorious badge of a scar, or whom shot or shell, in depriving them of a limb, have yet failed to disgrace. There are many occupations in which such men could acceptably be employed—the duties of salesmen, hook keepers, traveling agents—of a hundred similar occupations—could be as well performed by a one-armed, or even one-legged veteran as by an unimpaired civilian—and, when mentally and morally competent, their claims should be first considered by all requiring such services. But our principal object is to ask our friends the postmasters of the country, who form a majority of those whom our words will reach, to remember, when making their appointments, the obligations they are under, as officers of the government, to do all in their power to aid in furnishing employment to those who have exposed their lives, and shed their blood in that government's defence. Good character and mental ability not being wanting, no other quality should be looked for in an applicant for a vacant post in the gift of a postmas-

ter than the fact of faithful service in and honorable discharge from, the army of the Union—an empty sleeve, or a halting limb, the result of wounds, should be a sure guarantee of success to one who asks for post office employment. Postmaster Wakeman, of New York, has set an example in this respect, worthy of being followed by all his official brethren. At least one of the stations or branch offices of that city is almost entirely manned by carriers, collectors, &c., who have each left an arm upon some of the battle-fields of the present war, and their duties are well and thoroughly performed. In addition to these, a number of clerks employed at the general office have received their appointments on similar grounds; and for some of the lighter and less important duties, lads of 16 left fatherless by rebel bullets, are employed. In the government offices at Washington, we see by the daily journals the same admirable rule is being applied, and we hope that no postmaster among our readers will fail, in distributing such offices as are at his disposal, to give priority, when he can do so consistently with the public interests and those of the Department, to the claims of our DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

Proposed Amendments to the Postal Laws.

A bill has been reported in the House of Representatives, by the Post Office Committee, embodying several amendments to the present postal laws. Among its most important provisions is one abolishing the system of commissions to postmasters and substituting therefor a plan of compensation by salaries, to be divided into five classes, as follows: first class, not over \$4,000, nor less than \$3,000; second class, less than \$3,000 but not under \$2,000; third class, less than \$2,000, but not under \$1,000; fourth class, less than \$1,000, but not under \$500; fifth, not less than \$100. The New York post office is not included in this classification, and the salary of the postmaster of that city is fixed by the bill at \$6,000. First-class offices are those where the compensation of the postmasters for four years preceding next July has averaged not less than \$3,000; second class, less than \$3,000, but not under \$2,000; third class, less than \$2,000, but not under \$1,000; fourth class, less than \$1,000; fifth class, less than \$100.

The bill, in its present shape, covers various other changes in postal matters, but we shall await the final action of Congress in regard to it before making further reference to it, and shall then publish it entire. On our first page will be found a letter on the subject from the Postmaster General, addressed to Hon. Mr. Alley, of Mass., Chairman of the Post Office Committee of the House.

In Memoriam.

Among our exchanges, we find several notices of the death of Mr. Holbrook—all written in a spirit which shows a kindly appreciation both of his worth, and the loss to the community occasioned by his death. We reprint one or two which we have selected:

The late Mr. James Holbrook, who died in Brooklyn, Conn., on the 28th ult., is worthy of at least a passing notice, as a faithful officer and a true man. His name is familiar to the public in connection with our mail-service, of which he was a valuable and indefatigable officer for nearly twenty years. That, in the various changes of administration which occurred in this period, he ever retained his position as special agent, is not to be taken as proof of his indifference to politics, but of his indisputable fitness for his duties; and it would be better for our republican system if as far as possible, we should think altogether of qualifications and nothing of parties, especially when experience protests against the removal of a tried servant. Mr. Holbrook was, in a double sense, a man of letters, and compiled a very readable book of facts, entitled, "Ten Years among the Mail-Bags." He was moreover, editor of the *United States Mail*, and we are happy to remember him as a warm friend of the *Independence*. His arduous exertions in his peculiar function of detective undoubtedly wore upon his constitution, till he fell in the harness. Whether because of incessant anxiety and speculation, or from crushing developments of the rottenness of the fairest characters, certain it is, that the work of his profession is distressful to mind and body. The country has lost a citizen who served her with his whole heart, and we can well afford to hold his memory in grateful esteem.—N. Y. *Independent*.

DEATH OF MR. HOLBROOK.—We regret that we are called upon to record the loss of this gentleman, so well known to the public as a skillful and efficient officer in the post office service, and as well known to a large circle of friends as a man of kind heart and genial disposition, whose ready wit and pleasant humor were ever at hand to promote the social enjoyment of those with whom he came in contact. He was always interested in whatever concerned the prosperity of the place of his residence and ready to aid in promoting any measure of public improvement. We have often thought it remarkable that although he was obliged by the duties of his office to see so much of the worse side of human nature, yet he lost none of his kindly and trusting sympathy with others, nor did what might be called official suspiciousness extend itself at all to his ordinary social intercourse.

It is hardly necessary to speak of his official career. His naturally acute and inventive faculties, cultivated by some twenty years service as a Special Agent, rendering him a most successful servant of the public—one whom it will not be easy to replace.

His funeral was held last Saturday, at the house where for about seven months his life had been withering away. A large attendance was present, and several post offices, as that of New York, New Haven, &c., were represented by gentlemen connected with them.

The services were conducted by Rev. C. N. Seymour, of Brooklyn, in a most impressive manner, and did our space permit, we should be glad to give some outline of his feeling and sympathizing remarks.—*Windham Co. (Conn.) Transcript*.

W. L. KELLY, Esq., has been appointed Special Agent of the Post Office Department for the armies in the valley of the Mississippi, vice Markland, who has been transferred to Washington, in charge of the mails to the armies of the United States.

PLATTERING.—The publisher of this paper was recently complimented and surprised by the reception of several elegant pieces of silver, in the shape of four quarter-dollars. They came from a California P. M. in payment of his subscription.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Monsieur Tonson and the Smokers.

Editor U. S. Mail.—To some extent, Monsieur Tonson may have the right of the smoking question, but like every other it has two sides. For instance, I know a post office where the clerks, except the delivery clerks, work nearly or quite fourteen hours daily. Now are such men to confine their smoking to the few minutes spent in the streets while going to and from their homes? Or shall they be allowed to lighten their labors with the fragrant weed? I think Mons. T. enjoys his cigar too well to require the former alternative. Men of full habit, doing little or no heavy work, can chew instead, (by the way, a more filthy and disgusting habit than smoking,) but a majority of the clerks above referred to are of too slender build to endure the drain upon the system which chewing produces. Let Mons. T. or any other man contrive to lighten the labors of over-worked post office clerks, and then if he chooses to enter the lists against smoking in post offices, he will meet with much less opposition than now.
A. S. MORRIS.

BLANKTOWN, State of Fatigue, May, 1864.

Our friend has certainly made out a case which will appeal strongly to the sympathies of the smoking fraternity, but we still think that Mons. T. has the best of the argument. If one of the overworked clerks should be allowed the solace of his pipe or cigar, while engaged in his official duties, why should not the privilege be extended to all of them? And if a post office clerk may without impropriety smoke in the office, and while attending to the demands of the public, may not a dry-goods clerk do the same thing? Few employers would be found who would tolerate such a practice in their subordinates, and we think the reasons which by almost universal consent banish the fumes of "the weed" from ordinary places of business—namely, that smoking in such places is not *business-like*, is apt to distract the attention from serious occupation, and moreover likely to be exceedingly offensive to many persons, besides giving a general air of slovenliness and carelessness in any establishment, where it is permitted—are at least equally strong against its allowance in post offices, which all classes of the public are obliged to visit, and the atmosphere of which moral and material—should be kept in good odor by all employed therein.

Do the young men "of too slender build" find that smoking has a tendency to improve their physique in that respect?

Editor U. S. Mail.—I would ask if anything can be done for the relief of the community in the matter of the scarcity of small change? I think if the government would issue a postal currency of the denomination of three cents, it would do much to relieve the difficulty, as the nickel cent is either locked up, or otherwise disposed of. Give us the three cent postal and it would be gladly received both by the post offices and the public generally. Please give me your views on the subject.
H.

We have received one or two communications similar to the above, and have seen a like suggestion in the daily press. It would no doubt relieve postmasters, as well as the public, from the annoyance which is felt from the want of a substitute, of equal value, for the long absent and convenient three cent piece. Every other denomination of our silver currency has now its paper representative, and we can see no reason for excluding the three cent piece from the list. As we write, we observe a published statement that Secretary Chase has the matter under consideration.

P. O. L.—Illinois.

Editor U. S. Mail.—I have a question I wish you to answer through your paper. The W—Insurance Co., contend that they have a right to send their Insurance Journal to all those that insure with them, and that those men, not being regular subscribers, can pay the same postage as regular subscribers, and get their papers. Those men say they are not subscribers. I do not think they are entitled to their paper at the counter price, the same as regular subscribers. What say you?
P. M.

Sec. 144 of the Regulations states that "publications borrowing the name, having the form and some of the characteristics of a newspaper, printed for gratuitous circulation, and depending on their advertisements for support, cannot be sent by [that is, circulated through] the mail gratuitously to persons not actual and bona fide subscribers, upon the footing of newspapers sent from the office of publication to actual and bona fide subscribers." From this it is clear that the postage on such publications, intended for gratuitous circulation, cannot be paid at quarterly rates. "Actual and bona fide subscribers" can of course mean none others than persons who pay (or at least are charged with) money for subscriptions. It appears to us that the Insurance Journal referred to can only be sent, to persons not actual subscribers, at transient rates.

POST OFFICE, IOWA.

Editor U. S. Mail.—Is a publisher entitled to his exchanges free of postage, after he suspends the publication of his paper for an indefinite period? Or is he entitled to his exchanges free of postage, as long as he insists that he is going to or will resume the publication of his paper, but makes no effort to do so?
P. M.

When an individual ceases to be the publisher of a periodical, the privilege of free exchange with other publications ceases at the same time. In fact, the claim of a right to receive "exchanges" for which nothing is exchanged involves a "bull" of super-Irish proportions.

Depredation Cases.

CONVICTION.—At the term of the U. S. District Court, which commenced at Pittsburg, Pa., on May 2, John R. Smith was arraigned for robbing the post office at West Brownsville, Pa., in December, 1863.

He was convicted, and sentenced to 5 years in the Western Penitentiary.

At same session of Court, a boy named John Snyder, a mail carrier, was convicted of robbing the mail between Harlansburg and Harmony, Pa., He was sentenced to the House of Refuge.

The prosecution in these cases was conducted by Simon B. Row, Special Agent for that district.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

Miscellaneous Information.

Army Correspondence.

Letters from all soldiers in the army, below the rank of a commissioned officer, may be sent through the mails without prepayment—endorsed "Soldier's Mail" by a field or staff officer, (or, at detached posts, by the surgeon or chaplain) of the regiment from which they are sent. The same regulation applies to the navy and marine corps, the letter to be endorsed "Sailor's letter" by an officer. In no case are the letters of commissioned officers entitled to this privilege. The postage due on such "soldier's letters" is to be collected at the office of delivery.

Prepaid letters for soldiers, addressed to places where their regiments have been stationed, but from which they have been removed, may be forwarded to the new locality without extra charge.

If a soldier's or a naval letter arrives at any office unpaid, and yet is properly certified, no extra postage is to be charged, only the ordinary letter rates.

CLOTHING FOR SOLDIERS.—Articles of clothing, being manufactured of wool, cotton or linen, and comprised in a package not exceeding two pounds in weight, addressed to any non-commissioned officer or private, serving in the army of the United States, may be transmitted in the mails of the United States at the rate of eight cents, to be in all cases prepaid, for every four ounces, or any fraction thereof, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

MARINE SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—In order to insure the prompt and certain delivery of letters and other mail matter, addressed to officers and soldiers serving in the army of the Potomac, or stationed near Washington, D. C., the Postmaster General directs that postmasters, in making up their mails, whether for Washington direct, or for distributing offices, shall place all army letters in packages by themselves, and plainly mark them "Army Letters," when such packages arrive in Washington, they may be taken at once to an apartment provided for their reception, without being opened with the mails for the city.

Dead Letters.

By the instructions under the new postal law, UNPAID LETTERS are specified to be—

Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes.

Unpaid letters for foreign countries, on which prepayment is required by the regulations.

Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.

Letters misdirected to places where there are no post offices.

Unpaid letters directed to any Executive Department, or to any officer therein, and not franked according to law.

Only such letters as are herein described are, when deposited in any post office, to be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office; all others must be dispatched to their destination, (or, if drop letters, delivered,) according to section 36, of the act of March 3, 1863.

When annular letters are sent to this office, the specific reason therefor must be endorsed upon the envelope of each letter. Under the present law, no letter can be regarded as "held for postage," hence the use of such stamps is improper.

These instructions will be strictly followed at all Post Offices.

For more full instructions relating to dead letters, advertising letters, &c., examine carefully the 7th and 8th Sections of the Act of 3d March, 1863, and the instructions attached thereto.

Congressional Mails.

Under the order of the Department, postmasters are required to deliver up letters and papers for Members of Congress, to place them in separate packages, and write distinctly on each package the word "Congress, Washington, D. C.," embracing Congressional matter for the Representatives of the State. This will enable any distributing office through which they may pass, to place them, without delay, in the "Congress" bags, which, on arriving at Washington, are delivered to the Congressional Messengers, and do not go into the Washington office at all—thus saving the time necessarily required to select out this class of letters at the Washington post office.

These instructions are only applicable to Congress, and do not apply to the Washington office at all—thus saving the time necessarily required to select out this class of letters at the Washington post office.

These instructions are only applicable to Congress, and do not apply to the Washington office at all—thus saving the time necessarily required to select out this class of letters at the Washington post office.

Foreign Letters, &c.

RULE FOR RATING LETTERS TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

The attention of postmasters is particularly called to the mode of rating postage on letters to Great Britain, which has been changed in the mails between this country and the United Kingdom, which differs essentially from the United States domestic scale, when the weight of the package or letter exceeds one ounce, and the \$2.16 as a full ounce, it then goes as unpaid, and the \$2.16 is lost to the writer of the letter. The letters are treated as wholly unpaid, and the amount paid lost to the sender.

In no case should 3, 5 or 7 rates be collected upon a letter or packet addressed to the United Kingdom, the proper postage being either 1, 2, 4, 8, 8 rates, &c., according to weight.

Notwithstanding the explicit instructions of the Department on this subject, it is found that some postmasters are in the practice of charging postage upon letters and packets for the United Kingdom according to our domestic scale, (viz.: one rate for each half ounce or fraction of half an ounce,) and thus insufficient amounts of postage are frequently prepaid, which are entirely lost to the senders, as no account is taken of short payments of postage.

Letters to foreign countries, where prepayment of postage is compulsory, are to be sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be opened and returned to the writers, and are thereby delayed one or two mails, and, no doubt, in many cases, causing serious loss and annoyance to the writers.

REGISTERING FOREIGN LETTERS.—Letters can be registered in the United States for Great Britain and Ireland, for Germany, or any part of the German Empire, for France, for Prussia, for Austria, for Prussian closed mails. Letters to Canada can be registered, but not to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward's Island. Postmasters will, therefore, decline to register letters addressed to other foreign countries.

Our Postal Convention with the United Kingdom, provide that each country shall levy and collect its postage only, on newspapers, at the rate of two cents each, whether they are sent or received. Hence, newspapers received in this country from Great Britain come prepaid the British postage only, and postmasters must be particular, in all cases, to collect the United States charge of two cents on their delivery.

CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE.—Irregularities having arisen in respect to Canadian correspondence, these directions must hereafter be observed, however letters addressed to Canada must be mailed and post-billed to a United States Exchange Office. Letters cannot be sent direct to Post Offices in Canada.

The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is 10 cents, prepayment optional; but the whole postage must be prepaid or none. Part prepayments are not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

A postmaster may frank a letter to Canada the same as to any point in the United States; but it is optional for the Canadian P. O. Department to deliver such letter free, or charge full postage on it, at its pleasure.

COLLECTIONS IN COIN.—In pursuance of the provisions of a resolution of Congress, approved March 3, 1865, all postage on unpaid letters received from foreign countries in the mails despatched to this country from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen, or Belgium, are collected in gold or silver coin. Should, however, payment of such postage, and of the premium on a corresponding amount of coin, be tendered in United States notes, the same is to be accepted in lieu of coin. The amount to be collected in U. S. notes,

(in case coin is not offered,) is marked on each letter on the arrival at the distribution offices, and is charged in the post-bills. Hence, when coin is collected at the office of delivery, the difference should be entered in the account of Mails Received as an overcharge.

Letters which apply exclusively to the mails received from the countries mentioned.

On outgoing letters the former regulations remain unchanged, and, when prepaid, the regular rate only are to be collected.

United States Exchange Offices for Foreign Letters.

New York is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian, Belgian, Bremen and Hamburg Mails. Boston is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian and Belgian Mails.

Philadelphia is an office of Exchange for British and French Mails.

San Francisco is an office of Exchange for British Mails only.

Portland, Detroit, and Chicago, are offices of Exchange for British, Prussian and French Mails.

Where packages of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office directed to one address and the names of the club subscribers to which they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance, shall be handed to the postmaster, he shall deliver the same to their respective owners. But this does not apply to weekly newspapers which circulate free in the county where printed and published.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of May:

POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	ROUTE.
*Agriculture,	Mahaska,	Iowa,	11,055
Armstrong,	Vanderburg,	Ind.	12,158
Big Springs,	Logan,	Mo.	9,191
Hondell,	Shawano,	Wis.	15,206
*Bridgport,	Jackson,	Iowa,	10,974
*Bailey's Station,	Jefferson,	Mo.	14,403
Blue Grass Grove,	Le Sueur,	Min.	15,544
Bradville,	Grant,	Wis.	13,125
Biuletowa,	Tazewell,	Ill.	11,514
Chicken Creek,	Juah,	Utah,	14,608
Clay,	Way,	Mo.	10,961
Conesque Valley,	Tioga,	Pa.	2,502
Crab Orchard,	Johnson,	Neb.	14,013
*Columbus,	Anoka,	Min.	2,359
Dorrance,	Way,	Mo.	15,544
*Dryden,	Sibley,	Min.	15,334
*Delectable Hill,	Pike,	Ind.	12,124
*Fryeb'g Centre,	Oxford,	Me.	146
Fox,	Ray,	Mo.	Special
Gauley,	Clatsop,	Or.	15,022
Far West,	Morris,	Kan.	14,215
Freeville,	Tompkins,	N. Y.	Special
Green,	Licking,	Ohio,	9,159
Galeta,	Stanton,	Mo.	15,544
Georgetown,	Breckinridge,	R. I.	Special
Hope Valley,	Washington,	R. I.	Special
Hyde Park,	Cache,	Utah,	15,022
Hyrum,	Carroll,	Ind.	Special
Indianville,	Hamilton,	Ill.	10,677
*Loving,	Pattam,	Mo.	10,478
*Long Beach,	Dallas,	Tex.	10,600
*Long Branch,	Lincoln,	Mo.	Special
Linton,	Trigg,	Ky.	10,408
Montgomery,	Wright,	Iowa,	11,118
McVill,	Armstrong,	Pa.	Special
Mouton,	Shelby,	Utah,	15,022
Morris,	Juan,	Utah,	14,608
*Memphis,	Belmont,	Tenn.	9,903
Morning View,	Atchison,	Kan.	14,450
Mt. Pleasant,	Clinton,	Mo.	Special
North Whitehall,	Lehigh,	Pa.	2,321
North Wales,	Montgomery,	Pa.	2,270
Pierce Station,	Weavly,	Tenn.	9,650
Point Bluff,	Dane,	Wis.	15,144
Point of Rocks,	Col. Ter.	La.	14,465
Rose Creek,	Knockels,	Neb.	Special
River Basin,	Washington,	Mo.	10,773
Rockwood,	Chubbuck,	Utah,	15,022
Robtown,	Pickaway,	Ohio,	Special
Rothburg,	Queen Anne,	Md.	2,483
*Ranch's Gap,	Clinton,	Pa.	2,314
Rocky Hill,	Indiana,	Pa.	2,660
*Strongtown,	Schuykill,	Pa.	2,776
St. Nicholas,	Cole,	Mo.	Special
*Stringtown,	Channing,	Neb.	9,159
St. Paul,	Hardin,	Ohio,	9,393
Silver Creek,	San Joaquin,	Cal.	Special
Saugvile,	Sangamon,	Ill.	11,506
*Sherman,	Stoddard,	Mo.	15,022
*Saratoga,	Cache,	Utah,	15,022
St. Louis,	Placer,	Cal.	Special
Trucky River,	Camden,	N. J.	2,969
Timersville,	West Washington,	Tex.	15,123
Unionville,	De Witt,	Mo.	10,929
West Upton,	Worcester,	Mass.	650
Wilson's Mills,	Cuyahoga,	Ohio,	Special
Woods Falls,	Clinton,	N. Y.	Special
Yan Haren,	Michigan,	Ind.	12,233
Walnut Hill,	Marshall,	Ind.	12,233

* Re-Established.

DISCONTINUED.

[In the annexed List will be found added, the names of the nearest offices to which mail for those having been discontinued, should be sent.]

NAME.	COUNTY & TATE.	NEAREST OFFICE.
Asb Park,	Cattaraugus, N. Y.	West Valley
Ashville,	Pickaway, Ohio,	South Bloomfield
Asboth,	West Chester,	Pa.
Asbury,	Perry, Ohio,	Pike
Beady,	Tascara, Ohio,	Urickville, Ohio
Belle Air,	Cooper, Mo.	Boonville
Bach Grove,	Wright, Iowa,	Special
Baldwin,	Peoria, Kan.	Pawnee Fork
Boomer Grove,	Pottawatomie, Ok.	Crecent City
Campbell,	Winnebago, Wis.	Menasha
Clover's Mill,	Montgomery, Ind.	Winnamac
Conover,	Jackson, Iowa,	Andrew
Emeline,	Stark, Ind.	Knox
Englab Lake,	Lafayette, Mo.	Lexington
Greenon,	Chattanooga, N. Y.	Jamesstown
Howard's Mills,	Shelby, Mo.	Bethel
Hager's Grove,	Porter, Ind.	Westville
Jackson Centre,	Wood, Va.	Farkersburgh
Kanawha,	Chattanooga, N. Y.	Jamesstown
Levant,	Medicine Lake, Minn.	Medicine Lake
Mokelumne City,	San Joaquin, Cal.	Woodbridge
Medicine Lake,	Hennepin, Minn.	Medicine Lake
Moulton,	Augulae, Ohio,	St. Mary's
Mr. Bowley,	Peoria, Ill.	Gold Prairie
Nall's Mill,	Putnam, Ind.	Connersville
Obi Grove,	De Kalb, Ill.	Sycamore
Ogleton,	Butler, Ohio,	Walpole Station
Porter's Cr's Rds,	Porter, Ind.	Walpole
Pigeon Grove,	Columbia, Wis.	Pardesville
Piketon,	Pike, Ky.	Prestonburg
Port Perry,	Perry, Mo.	Perryville
Retreat,	Vernon, Wis.	De Soto
Reddington,	Jackson, Ind.	Brownstown
Rockwood,	Nelson, Ky.	Wickliffe
St. Michael,	Wright, Minn.	Dayton
Silver Creek,	Madison, Ky.	Holt
Stony Ridge,	Wood, Ohio,	Kirkville
Shank's Hill,	Henry, Ohio,	Napoleon
Uffington,	Monongalia, W. Va.	Morgantown
Una,	Wayne, Iowa,	Corydon
Unionville,	Waycom, W. Va.	Portersville
Vermont,	Howard, Iowa,	Kokomo
Zion,	Henderson, Ky.	Henderson
Zillo,	Chickasaw, Iowa,	New Hampton
Zimbro,	Olmsted, Minn.	Rochester

NAMES CHANGED.

Bay City, Wash. Co. to Bayfield.

Coveland, Island, N. Y. to Couplville.

Davison Centre, Genesee, N. Y. to Davison.

Fishkill Landing, Dutchess, N. Y. to Fishkill on the Hudson.

Grant, Grant, Ind. to Fairmount.

George's Mills, Johnson, Ill. to Lincoln Green.

Mortonville, Orange, N. Y. to Van's Gate.

Sherman, Aroostook, Me. to Sherman Falls.

Santrel Falls, Jefferson, Kan. to Grasshopper Falls.

Two Creeks, Manitowish, Wis. to Green City.

Turkey Grove, Cass, Iowa, to Grove City.

West Sherman, Aroostook, Me. to Sherman.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Cincinnati, Hamilton, Ohio, Frederick John Mayer.

Innont, Lawrence, Ohio, Wm. L. Spear.

Clinton, N. Y., Frederick C. Wells.

Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wis. Charles C. Barger.

Westfield, Chautauque, Mich. Daniel B. Greene.

Ypsilante, Washington, Mich. Daniel B. Greene.

RE-OPENED.

Chapico, St. Mary's, Md.

Long Jack, Jackson, Mo.

Pinch Bluff, Jefferson, Ark.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Deerfield, Steele, Minn. Lucy Grant.

Graefenberg, Adams, Pa. Miss Anna Shriver.

Harland, McHenry, Ill. Mrs. Angeline M. Judd.

Lynnville, Jasper, Mo. Mrs. Leah M. Combe.

Whippany, Morris, N. J. Miss Mary L. Tuttle.

New Lancaster, Warren, Ill. Mrs. Eliza Ewing.

Oranville, Columbia, Pa. Mrs. Elizabeth J. Schuyler.

Portland Middlesex, Ct. Mrs. Mary J. Edwards.

South Deer Isle, Hancock, Me. Mrs. Susan S. Presby.

Van Dyke, Des Moines, Iowa, Miss Nancy A. Storer.

West Vincent, Chester, Pa. Miss Christina Fertig.

West Fork, Monroe, Iowa, Mrs. Leah M. Combe.

Whippany, Morris, N. J. Miss Mary L. Tuttle.

Whitewood, Berceci, Mich. Miss E. Buzgles.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid,) excepting those written to the President or Vice-President, or the person to whom an official business is addressed, or the chiefs of the executive departments of the government, and the heads of bureaus and chief clerks, and others invested with the franking privilege, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, prepayment not being prohibited.

All drop letters must be prepaid, at the rate of two cents per half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, by postage stamps. If not prepaid, the double rate to be paid.

The single rate of postage on all domestic mail letters throughout the United States is three cents each additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, and the rate of postage between offices in the United States, and to and from Canada and other BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES, is one cent, irrespective of distance.

To and from British N. Am. Provinces, for distance not over 3,000 miles, 10 cts. For any distance over 3,000 miles, 15 cts. For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever.

Photographs on cards, paper, and other flexible material, (not in cases,) can be sent at the same rate as miscellaneous printed matter, viz.: two cents each for four ounces or fraction thereof.

Photographic Albums are chargeable with book postage—four cents for each four ounces, or fraction thereof.

Postmasters are authorized to pay for each letter addressed to the United States by any sea-going vessel from a foreign port, (not carrying the mail,) two cents, and for each letter addressed to the United States brought by any vessel on arrival at the United States port to another, one cent; but to entitle the carrier to such payment, the letters must be promptly delivered to the post office, and, if not delivered, such letters will be charged with double rates of postage, to be collected at the office of delivery; that is to say, six cents for each ounce or fraction of an ounce, if such letters have been prepaid by United States stamps, at the double rate of postage, no additional charge will be made. If only partly prepaid by stamps, double the unpaid balance will be charged and collected on delivery.

Newspaper Postage.

Postage on Daily Papers to subscribers when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, per quarter, (three months), 35 cts. Six times per week, " " " " 30 " For Tri-Weekly, " " " " 15 " For Weekly, " " " " 10 " For Weekly, " " " " 5 "

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS (one copy only) sent by the publisher to actual subscribers within the county where published, and not prepaid, at the rate of POSTAGE PER QUARTER (to be paid quarterly or yearly in advance) on NEWSPAPERS and PERIODICALS ISSUED LESS FREQUENTLY than once a week, sent to actual subscribers in any part of the U. S. Semi-monthly, not over 4 oz. and not over 12 oz., 6 cts. Monthly, not over 4 oz. and not over 12 oz., 12 cts. Quarterly, not over 4 oz. and not over 12 oz., 2 cts. Over 4 oz. and not over 12 oz., 4 cts. Over 12 oz. and not over 12 oz., 8 cts.

PUBLISHERS OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS may send to each other from their respective offices of publication, free of postage, one copy of each publication, and one copy of each advertisement, to each subscriber, inclosed in their publications, bills and receipts for the same, free of postage. They may also elect on their respective publications, the date when the subscription expires, to be written or printed on the publication.

Religious, Educational and Agricultural Newspapers of small size, issued less frequently than once a week, may be sent in packages to which mail for four ounces in weight, and each additional four ounces or fraction thereof, the postage to be paid quarterly or yearly in advance.

NEWSPAPERS may send newspapers and periodicals to regular subscribers at the quarterly rates, in the same manner as publishers, and may also receive from their subscribers at the quarterly rates. In both cases the postage to be prepaid, either at the mailing or delivery office.

Publications issued without disclosing the office of publication, or containing any advertisement, unless prepaid at the mailing office at the rate of transient printed matter.

Postage on Transient Printed Matter.

Books, not over 4 oz. in weight, to one address, 4 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 8 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 12 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 16 cts.

CIRCULARS, not exceeding three in number, to one address, 2 cts.; over three and not over six, 4 cts.; over six and not over nine, 6 cts.; over nine and not over 12 oz., 8 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 10 cts.

By a recent order of the Postmaster General, the 2d subdivision of the 2d instruction of the new Post Office Law, has been amended by striking out the word twelve and inserting thirty-two before the word ounces, so that it shall read as follows: "The weight of packages of seeds, roots, and scions, to be franked, is limited to thirty-two ounces."

All mail matter not sent at letter rates of postage, embracing books, book manuscripts, proof-sheets, and other printed matter, and all other mail matter except seeds, must be so wrapped or enveloped with open sides or ends as to enable the postmaster to examine the package without destroying the contents. The weight of such packages is rated with letter postage. No communication, whether in writing or in print, can be sent with any seeds, roots, cuttings or scions, maps, engravings or other printed matter, except upon the separate payment of postage upon each separate matter at the established rates.

Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be mailed. Weekly newspapers and other printed matter to the British North American Provinces, although sent from countries bordering on the line, are chargeable with the same rates as when sent to any point in the United States.

All transient matter must be prepaid by stamp. But if it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or stamp-paid, the unpaid postage must be collected on delivery at double the prepaid rate.

Great neglect exists in the strict quarterly prepayment of postage on printed matter sent to regular subscribers. No such papers should be delivered, unless it is either prepaid at the mailing office, or at the delivery office for at least a quarter. If not so prepaid, postmasters must collect postage on each copy as on transient matter. If they fail, they will be charged with the full postage due, and in clear cases removed from office for neglect.

To inclose or conceal a letter or other thing (except bills and receipts for subscription) in, or to write or print anything, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects each printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marks or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, other than the name and address of the person to whom it is addressed, and the date when its subscription expires, subjects the package to letter postage.

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All transient matter must be prepaid by stamp. But if it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or stamp-paid, the unpaid postage must be collected on delivery at double the prepaid rate.

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To inclose or conceal a letter or other thing (except bills and receipts for subscription) in, or to write or print anything, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects each printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

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SAFES FOR POST OFFICES

Are allowed by the Department only in special cases, and never to any office where the safe is not the property of the Post Office, application to be made to the Appointment Office.

EXCHANGE OFFICES FOR BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

New York, Boston, Albany, Troy and Portland exchange with some of the largest offices on the other side by through bags. Portland and the Houte Agents thence to the Canada side, exchange with Toronto, Hamilton, Queenstown, London and other offices on Lake Erie; Whitehall, Plattsburgh, Rouse's Point, N. Y. with St. John's; Burlington and Rutland, Vermont, with Montreal, Sherbrook and Route Agents. The following exchange with their nearest corresponding offices on the other side: Black Rock, Suspension Bridge, Dovers, Ledyard, Youngstown, Rochester, (with Cargate in summer), Cape Vincent, Morris-town, Ogdensburg and Fort Covington, N. Y.; Richmond, Franklin, Derby Line, North Troy, Swanton and Canaan, Vt.; Cleveland, Ohio, (with Fort Stanley in summer); Sault Ste. Marie, Fort Huron, Detroit and Algona, Mich.; Fort Fairfield, Robinson, Calais, Houlton and Eastport, Me.

Time Occupied in the Transmission of Letters from Distant Points to N. Y. City.

From	Days.	From	Days.
Baltimore, Md.	3 to 4	Memphis, Tenn.	4 to 5
Buffalo, N. Y.	3 to 4	Nebraska,	5 to 7
Beaufort, N. C.	3 to 4	New Mexico,	20
Beaufort, N. C.	4 to 5	Natchez, Miss.	11 to 13
Concord, N. H.	3 to 4	Nashville, Tenn.	3 to 4
Chicago, Ill.	2	Newbern, N. C.	3 to 4
Cincinnati, Ohio	2	Pittsburg, Pa.	1
Colorado Ter.	12 to 15	Portland, Me.	1
Indianapolis, Ind.	2	Portland, Me.	2 to 3
Kansas, Mo.	2	Quebec, Can.	2
Dubuque, Iowa.	3	St. Louis, Mo.	2 to 3
Denver City,	12 to 15	St. Paul, Minn.	5 to 6
Ferrandina, Fla.	7 to 10	St. Paul, Minn.	5 to 6
Indianapolis, Ind.	2	St. Augustine, Fla.	10 to 12
Kansas, Mo.	2	Toledo, Ohio,	2
Key West,	7 to 9	Vicksburg, Miss.	11 to 13
Little Rock, Ark.	8	Oregon,	30 to 40
Louisville, Ky.	2	Wash. Ter.,	30 to 40
Madison, Wis.	2	Utah,	30 to 40
Montreal, Can.	2	Utah,	30 to 40

POST OFFICE BLANKS.

The agencies for supplying postmasters with blanks are as follows:

District No. 1—Supplies blanks for the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "J. Guest, Blank Agent, Washington, D. C., Columbia."

District No. 2—Supplies blanks for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California and Oregon Territory, and the Territories of Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Postmasters in either of these States or Territories, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "Bevery Clark, Blank Agent, New York, N. Y."

District No. 3—Supplies blanks for the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind should address "A. F. Lee, Blank Agent, Buffalo, N. Y."

When the postages collected at an office amount to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letters.
Postage on Printed Matter.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letters.
Postage on Printed Matter.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letters.
Postage on Printed Matter.

TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.
N. Brunswick, Cape Breton, 10 cents when not over 3,000 miles from the line of crossing.
Nova Scotia. To Newfoundland, 15 cents when distance exceeds 3,000 miles.
Prepayment optional.
Steamers of the Cunard line from Boston twice each month, touching at Halifax, and when letters are sent by that conveying for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island, the U. S. postage is collected at the office of mailing, or the inland rate is collected on delivery of newspapers by this route, the postage is two cents each.

COUNTRIES.	Not weighing more than 1 ounce.	Not weighing more than 2 ounces.	Not weighing more than 4 ounces.	Not weighing more than 8 ounces.	COUNTRIES.	Not weighing more than 1 ounce.	Not weighing more than 2 ounces.	Not weighing more than 4 ounces.	Not weighing more than 8 ounces.
Acapulco, British mail, via Southampton	10	13	16	19	Galata, open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	10	13	16	19
do do do via Marseilles	30	33	36	39	do do do by Brit. pkt.	10	13	16	19
do do do French mail	30	33	36	39	Gallipoli, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 38c.)	30	33	36	39
Adriatic, French mail	30	33	36	39	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
Algeria, French mail	30	33	36	39	Gambia, via England	35	38	41	44
Alaska, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 38c.)	30	33	36	39	Gandolpha, via England	35	38	41	44
do do do French mail	30	33	36	39	Guatemala, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 28c.)	20	23	26	29
do do do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	20	23	26	29
do do do by Brit. pkt.	20	23	26	29	Havana, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 38c.)	30	33	36	39
do do do by French packet	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
Altona, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 31c.)	15	18	21	24	do do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	20	23	26	29
do do do French mail	15	18	21	24	do do do by British packet	20	23	26	29
Amoy, French mail	27	30	33	36	do do do Great Britain and Ireland	24	27	30	33
Arabia, British mail, via Southampton	30	33	36	39	do do do French mail	24	27	30	33
do do do via Marseilles	30	33	36	39	do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	24	27	30
Argentina, French mail	30	33	36	39	do do do by British pkt.	21	24	27	30
do do do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	33	36	39	Hamburg, by Hamburg mail, direct from N. York	10	13	16	19
Ascension, via England	30	33	36	39	do do do Prussian closed mail	10	13	16	19
Aspinwall, for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles	10	13	16	19	do do do when prepaid	10	13	16	19
do do do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	20	23	26	29	Hanover, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 38c.)	20	23	26	29
Australia, British mail, via Southampton	30	33	36	39	do do do French mail	20	23	26	29
do do do by private ship from N. York or Boston	30	33	36	39	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29
do do do French mail (South Austr. com. pr.)	30	33	36	39	do do do French mail	20	23	26	29
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles	30	33	36	39	Havanna, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 38c.)	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Trieste	30	33	36	39	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39	Holland, French mail	20	23	26	29
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39	do do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	20	23	26	29
do do do French mail	30	33	36	39	do do do by British pkt.	20	23	26	29
do do do (except prov. in Italy) French mail	20	23	26	29	Holstein, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 38c.)	30	33	36	39
Azores, British mail, via Portugal	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
Baden, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 28c.)	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	Honduras, Prussian closed mail, (if prepaid, 38c.)	30	33	36	39
Bahamas, by direct steamer from New York	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
Bankok, Siam, via Southampton	30	33	36	39	Hong Kong, Brit. mail, via Marseilles	30	33	36	39
do do do via Marseilles	30	33	36	39	do do do by French mail via Southampton	30	33	36	39
Batavia, French mail, via Southampton	30	33	36	39	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do via Marseilles	30	33	36	39	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
Bavaria, Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do French mail	30	33	36	39	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
Belgium, French mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do closed mail, via England	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by British packet	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by American pkt.	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by British packet	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by French mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by French mail, (if prepaid, 38c.)	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do French mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
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do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do Prussian closed mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do when prepaid	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do French mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20	23	26	29	do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	33	36	39
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	20								

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. IV., No. 10.

NEW YORK, JULY, 1864.

WHOLE No. 46.

Amendments to the Postal Laws.

The following Act, passed June 30, 1864, embodying important modifications of previous postal laws, is published for the information of our readers. Instructions for the guidance of postmasters in reference to action under its provisions are being prepared by the Department:

AN ACT

TO AMEND THE POSTAL LAWS.

SEC. 1.—*Be it enacted by the Senate and Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled,* That the annual compensation of postmasters shall be at a fixed salary, in lieu of commissions, to be divided into five classes, exclusive of the postmaster of the city of New York. Postmasters of the first class shall receive not more than four thousand dollars nor less than three thousand dollars; postmasters of the second class shall receive less than three thousand dollars and not less than two thousand dollars; postmasters of the third class shall receive less than two thousand dollars and not less than one thousand dollars; postmasters of the fourth class shall receive less than one thousand dollars and not less than five hundred dollars; postmasters of the fifth class shall receive less than one hundred dollars.

SEC. 2.—*And be it further enacted,* That the compensation of the postmaster of New York shall be six thousand dollars per annum, to take effect on the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-four; and the compensation of postmasters of the several classes aforesaid shall be established by the Postmaster General under the rules hereinafter provided. Whenever the compensation of postmasters of the several offices, (except the office of New York,) for two consecutive years next preceding the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, shall have amounted to an average annual sum not less than three thousand dollars, such offices shall be assigned to the first class; whenever it shall have amounted to less than three thousand dollars, but not less than two thousand dollars, such offices shall be assigned to the second class; whenever it shall have amounted to less than two thousand dollars, but not less than one thousand dollars, such offices shall be assigned to the third class; whenever it shall have amounted to less than one thousand dollars, but not less than one hundred dollars, such offices shall be assigned to the fourth class; and whenever it shall have amounted to less than one hundred dollars, such offices shall be assigned to the fifth class. To offices of the first, second, and third classes shall be severally assigned salaries, in even hundreds of dollars, as nearly as practicable in amount the same as, but not exceeding, the average compensation of the postmasters thereof for the two years next preceding; and to offices of the fourth class shall be assigned severally salaries, in even tens of dollars, as nearly as practicable in amount the same as, but not exceeding, such average compensation for the two years next preceding; and to offices of the fifth class shall be assigned severally salaries, in even dollars, as nearly as practicable in amount the same as, but not exceeding, such average compensation for the two years next preceding. Wherever returns showing the average of annual compensation of postmasters for the two years next preceding the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, shall not have been received at the Post Office Department at the time of adjustment, the same may be estimated by the Postmaster General for the purpose of adjusting the salaries of postmasters herein provided for. And it shall be the duty of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department to obtain from postmasters their quarterly accounts, with the vouchers necessary to a correct adjustment thereof, and to report to the Postmaster General all failures of postmasters to render such returns within a proper period after the close of each quarter.

SEC. 3.—*And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General shall review once in two years, and in special cases upon satisfactory representation as much oftener as he may deem expedient, and readjust, on the basis of the preceding section, the salaries assigned by him to any office; but any change made in such salary shall not take effect until the first day of the quarter next following such order. And all orders made assigning or changing salaries shall be made in writing and recorded in his journal, and notified to the Auditor for the Post Office Department.

SEC. 4.—*And be it further enacted,* That salaries of the first, second, and third classes shall be adjusted to take effect on the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and of the fourth and fifth classes at the same time, or at the commencement of a quarter as early as practicable thereafter.

SEC. 5.—*And be it further enacted,* That at offices which have not been established for two years prior to the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, the salary may be adjusted upon a satisfactory return by the postmaster of the receipts, expenditures, and business of his office: *Provided,* That fifty per centum of the gross revenue of such office shall be, in all cases, the largest amount allowed to such postmasters for their salaries, respectively, except in cases where it shall be a separating or distributing office, as provided for in the sixth section of this act.

SEC. 6.—*And be it further enacted,* That at the post office of New York and offices of the first and second classes, the Postmaster General shall allow to the postmaster a just and reasonable sum for the necessary cost, in whole or in part, of rent, fuel, lights and clerks, to be adjusted upon a satisfactory exhibit of the facts. And at offices of the third, fourth, and fifth classes, such expenses shall be paid by the postmaster, except as in the sixth section provided: it being intended that such allowances shall be made in accordance with existing usages.

SEC. 7.—*And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General may designate certain convenient offices, at the intersection of mail routes, as distributing offices, and certain others as separating offices; and where any such office is of the third, fourth, or fifth class of post offices, he may make a reasonable allowance to such postmaster for the necessary cost, in whole or in part, of clerical services arising from such duties.

SEC. 8.—*And be it further enacted,* That all postage and box rents at post offices, and all other receipts and emoluments at a post office,

shall be received and accounted for as a part of the postal revenues; and any part thereof which the postmaster ought to have collected but has neglected to collect shall be charged against him in the same manner as if the same had been collected; and he shall receive no fees or perquisites beyond his salary.

SEC. 9.—*And be it further enacted,* That the uniform rate of United States postage, without reference to distance, upon letters and other mailable matter addressed to or received from foreign countries, when forwarded from or received in the United States by steamships or other vessels regularly employed in the transportation of the mails, shall be as follows, viz: ten cents per single rate of half an ounce or under, on letters; two cents each on newspapers; and the established domestic rates on pamphlets, periodicals, and other articles of printed matter; which postage shall be prepaid on matter sent, and collected on matter received: *Provided,* That these rates shall not apply to letters or other mailable matter addressed to or received from any foreign place or country, and from which different rates of postage have been or shall be established by international postal convention or arrangement already concluded or hereafter to be made.

SEC. 10.—*And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General is authorized to sell, or cause to be sold, to individuals, corporations, and business firms, postage stamps, in quantities of not less than one hundred dollars in value, at a discount not exceeding five per centum from the face value of such stamps, and to sell, or cause to be sold, stamped envelopes, in packages containing not less than five hundred envelopes, at a discount not exceeding five per centum from the current prices thereof when sold in less quantities.

SEC. 11.—*And be it further enacted,* That the twenty-eighth section of the act entitled "An act to amend the laws relating to the Post Office Department," approved March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be, and the same are hereby, amended by the addition of the following clause, namely: And when any letter bearing a request for its return to the writer, in case of its non-delivery, shall have been so returned to the office at which it was originally mailed, then, and in that case, it shall be obligatory upon the person to whom such letter has been returned to receive the same, and to pay therefor the postage specified by this section; and in default of said writer to receive and pay for the letter so returned, he shall be subject to a penalty of ten dollars, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 12.—*And be it further enacted,* That if any person employed in any of the departments of the post office establishment shall unlawfully detain, delay, or open, any letter, packet, bag or mail of letters, with which he shall be intrusted, or which shall have come to his possession, and which are intended to be conveyed by post, or to be carried or delivered by any mail carrier, letter carrier, route agent, or other person employed in any of the departments of the post office establishment of the United States, or to be forwarded or delivered through or from any post office or branch post office established by authority of the Postmaster General of the United States, or if any such person shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy, any letter or packet intrusted to such person as aforesaid, and which shall not contain any security for or assurance relating to money, as hereinafter described, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined not less than three hundred dollars, or imprisoned not less than six months, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence. And if any person employed as aforesaid shall secrete, embezzle, or destroy any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters, with which he or she shall be intrusted, or which shall have come to his or her possession, and which are intended to be conveyed by post, or to be carried or delivered by any mail carrier, mail messenger, letter carrier, route agent, or other person employed in any of the departments of the post office establishment of the United States, or to be forwarded or delivered through or from any post office or branch post office established by authority of the Postmaster General of the United States, such letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters, containing any note, bond, draft, check, revenue stamp, postage stamp, money order, certificate of stock, or other pecuniary obligation, or government security of any description whatever, issued, or that may hereafter be issued by the United States, or by any officer or fiscal agent thereof, any bank note or bank post bill, bill of exchange, warrant of the treasury of the United States, note of assignment of stock in the funds, letters of attorney for receiving annuities or dividends, or for selling stock in the funds, or for receiving the interest thereof, or any letter of credit, or note for, or relating to, payment of moneys, or any home or warrant, draft, bill, or promissory note, covenant, contract, or agreement, whatsoever, for, or relating to, the payment of money, or the delivery of any article of value, or the performance of any act, matter, or thing, or any receipt, release, acquittance, or discharge of, or from, any debt, covenant, or demand, or any other thing, or any copy of any record of any judgment, or decree, in any court of law, or chancery, or any execution which may have issued thereon, or any copy of any other record, or any other article of value, or any writing representing the same; or if any such person, employed as aforesaid, shall steal, or take, any of the same out of any letter, packet, bag, or mail of letters, or shall come to his or her possession, or shall have such letter or packet, bag or mail of letters shall have come or been placed in his or her possession to be forwarded or delivered in the regular course of his or her official duties, or shall have come or been placed in his or her possession in any other manner, and provided that such letter or packet, bag or mail of letters shall not have been delivered to the person to whom it is directed, such person shall, on conviction for any such offence, be imprisoned not less than

ten years, nor exceeding twenty-one years; and the fact that any such letter or packet, bag or mail of letters, shall have been deposited in any post office or branch post office established by authority of the Postmaster General of the United States, or in any other authorized depository of mail letters, or in the charge of any postmaster, assistant postmaster, clerk, carrier, agent, or messenger employed in the post office establishment of the United States, shall be taken and held as evidence that the same was intended to be conveyed by post within the meaning of this statute.

SEC. 13.—*And be it further enacted,* That the Postmaster General has authority to prescribe by regulation the manner of wrapping and securing for the mails the matter not charged with letter postage nor lawfully franked, so that the same may be conveniently examined by postmasters; and if not so wrapped and secured, the same shall be subject to letter postage.

SEC. 14.—*And be it further enacted,* That dead letters containing valuable enclosures shall be registered in the department: and when it appears that they can neither be delivered to their owners nor to the writers, the contents thereof, so far as available, shall be used to promote the efficiency of the Dead Letter Office, according to the provisions of the seventh section of act approved February twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An act to establish certain post routes;" and the amount thereof shall be shown in the annual report, and shall be subject to reclamation by either the party addressed or by the sender for four years from registry thereof, careful account being kept of the same. All other letters deemed of value or of importance to the party addressed, or to the writer, and which it appears cannot be returned to their destination, shall be disposed of as the Postmaster General shall direct.

SEC. 15.—*And be it further enacted,* That letter carriers shall be employed, at such post offices as the Postmaster General shall direct, for the delivery of letters, in the places, respectively, where such post offices are established; and for their services they shall severally receive a salary, to be prescribed by the Postmaster General, not exceeding eight hundred dollars per year: *Provided,* That, on satisfactory evidence of their diligence, fidelity, and experience as carriers, the Postmaster General may increase their respective salaries from time to time to any sum not exceeding one thousand dollars; and each of the said carriers shall give bond, with sureties, to be approved by the Postmaster General, for the safe custody and delivery of all letters, packets, and moneys received by him.

SEC. 16.—*And be it further enacted,* That all expenses for the letter carriers, branch offices, and receiving boxes, or lockers, heretofore, shall be entered and reported in a separate account from the ordinary postal expenses of such post office, and shall be shown in comparison with the proceeds of the postages on local mail matter at each office, in order that the Postmaster General may be guided in the expenditures for that branch of the postal service by income derived therefrom.

SEC. 17.—*And be it further enacted,* That the eighth, eleventh, and fourteenth sections of the act entitled "An act to amend the laws relating to the Post Office Department," approved March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, the provisions of which have been modified and incorporated in this act, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

SEC. 18.—*And be it further enacted,* That the special agent of the Post Office Department for the Pacific States and territories be allowed \$5 per diem as compensation.

Carriers vs. Boxes.

Editor U. S. Mail.—There are several objections which occur to me against the substitution of the delivery of letters by carriers in our large cities in place of the box system; and if you can spare me the space I will briefly state some of these objections. During ten years in which my letters were delivered by carrier, previous to my renting a box, there were no less than four successive carriers on that route—all of whom were removed for no cause that I could ascertain, (and I took some pains to inquire into the matter,) except "political necessity." They were all faithful, honest and intelligent; but with the advent of each new incumbent I was subjected to considerable inconvenience—in one instance to heavy loss—through delay in the receipt of my letters, which reached me sometimes hours after the proper time; my remonstrances being met with the reply—"Well, you see, I haven't got breaks in yet;" and after being "broke in," his absence on account of sickness and other causes would sometimes necessitate the substitution of a "green hand"—when the excuse for a late delivery would be—"Jones is sick, and I've got all my own route to serve as well as his"—a sufficient apology, of course, but one which carried with it small comfort to me. When the fourth carrier was disposed of and his successor reigned in his stead, I availed myself of an opportunity to procure a box, and have, on the whole, had little cause to regret the step. Some annoying mistakes and delays have occurred—and once I was robbed of my letters by my messenger; but I think the balance is still in favor of the box system in my case. This is one of my objections to the proposed measure.

A second objection which I have to urge I must present through the medium of another's experience. During the past five years he was obliged to change the location of his place of business (I think three times, and at each removal, in fact, for some time, he was changed his locality every month in the year)—reached him with vexatious irregularity. Being addressed to his former place of business, his letters were in many instances unreasonably delayed, and more than once mysteriously disappeared altogether. His experience may be that of any other—whereas, a box-holder may change his locality every month in the year without fear of such annoyance.

I might give you other reasons for the faith that is in me in regard to this matter, but forbear to trespass further on your patience.

Respectfully yours,
A BOX HOLDER.

In answer to the first objection of our correspondent to the carrier system—the liability of carriers

to frequent removal—it is sufficient to say that the instructions of the Postmaster General to postmasters, on this subject, state "that it is not intended to remove carriers, except for cause of unfitness." If this rule be carried out, as it undoubtedly will be, the main objection of "a Box-holder," however applicable in the past, loses its force as regards the future. Competent and honest carriers, to be retained in office during good behavior, are certainly essential to the success of the proposed system; and we trust the principle will be found to produce results so beneficial as to cause its application to other branches of the postal service. Perhaps a fact or two in way of offset to our friend's "experience" may not be out of place. Four-fifths of the complaints of missing letters, made at the New York office, by merchants of that city, come from box-holders. Within the past three years, at least one hundred boys and young men have been detected in dishonestly appropriating the letters of their (box-holding) employers, besides others who have been the subjects of suspicion, amounting almost to certainty. Many of these confessed to the purloining of scores of letters. We think the "experience" of the one hundred suffering employers in these cases will at least balance those of a "Box-holder."

As to the second point, urged in favor of the box system—that of the inconvenience likely to occur through the change in location of places of business—we think no serious trouble need arise from this cause, if due care be taken to notify the carrier of an intended change of that kind, and to furnish him with the new address, so that such letters as thereafter reach his hands bearing the old one, may be corrected and handed to the proper carrier. The errors which now unavoidably occur, in large offices, in "boxing up," and the delay in sorting and delivering box letters, we are sure, from personal observation, leave a balance against the box system, as compared with the carrier delivery. The general adoption of the carrier system would moreover have a decided tendency to lessen the number of errors in delivery, by causing correspondents to be more precise and careful in addressing letters. A letter addressed simply to "Jones & Bro., New York," may very easily reach the box of "Jones & Son," but if addressed to a street and number, to be delivered by carrier, it would be next to impossible that an error in delivery could occur.

Monsieur Tonsbn Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

I think it would be a good idea to create a board of examination, to look periodically into the sanitary condition of post-offices throughout the country. I have seen the inside of some which for slovenliness and nastiness out-Herod Herod. The accumulated rubbish of a life-time fills every hole, corner and crevice, with old shoes, old clothes, straps, strings, broken glass, old iron, old lamps and candlesticks, old bottles, of all shapes and sizes, rat-eaten drawers, work-eaten boxes, fly-specked paper files, and a general variety of dirt and dust; while overhead and across windows and fan-lights the realms of spiderdom extend undisputed—the monarch thereof, or some of his subjects, indulging in frequent feats of zampillaerostion, to the no small terror of business visitors who are quite unaccustomed to such companionship; not to say anything of the injury wrought upon the poor harmless flies, who, fascinated with these extraordinary performances on the volante, lose their natural timidity and their lives for their holdness and temerity for remaining in such a place. I do not mean to blame anybody for the foolishness of the flies, I am only finding fault with having traps in such a place.

I would suggest that an essay on the various uses of "Bristles and Broom Corn" be written and distributed gratuitously for the use of such persons as have been led to believe after much effort that there is some efficacy in soap and water, and a good deal of virtue in mops and elbow grease.

The young gentleman who took exceptions to my remarks on the impropriety of pipe-smoking, may cavil at what I have said about dirty offices, but I will say to him in a word, "look sharp before you speak," my spectacles are to be depended upon.

I often think what a blessed thing it is that mail pouches have no feeling. I have seen them pitched and kicked out of mail and baggage-cars like so much old rubbish, narrowly escaping being cut to pieces by the wheels; and I have seen big-fisted fellows sieze them and drag them along over all sorts of rough places, just for all the world as dead animals dragged at a cart-tail. I think it shameful, really, that somebody don't put a stop to such abuse; postmasters won't, and we outsiders can't; but if it is a crime punishable by statute to injure or destroy private property, how much greater should be the punishment for injuring and maltreating mail bags and pouches, and jeopardizing the safety and security of the precious contents. I presume however in this, as in any other case, familiarity breeds contempt, and as long as the bags don't say anything the vandals who have the handling of them may swagger and toss them about as they please.

Falstaff you know was wonderfully brave over the dead Percy, but still he had some misgivings that Percy might not be dead after all, which rather bittered his sweet, and made him somewhat respectful to the fallen warrior; but these modern cowards know their charge is "dead, quite dead," and jerk, and cuff and draggle it round to their hearth's content. I often wish a few mule kicks could be applied energetically in the right spot.

I have noticed at different times and at different places mail bags of leather and canvas in such bad condition that the contents I think could be abstracted without any difficulty if an opportunity afforded itself to a dishonest person. Great yawning holes too, gape at you from newspaper bags, and it certainly must require careful handling and watchfulness to prevent them from growing thin, "as they keep marching along." Frequently bags can be seen lying at transfer stations and depots locked and strapped in the most negligent manner; and from the size I am of opinion they are generally from large offices; and here I would mark that—as far as my knowledge is concerned—the large offices are not the most carefully managed ones. Some of them are poor models for imitation by their smaller brethren, and the carelessness of the employees is I suppose attributable altogether to the fact that there is no immediate supervising authority to direct and control their labor.

If I were a postmaster—which elevated position I do not enumerate among my great expectations, I would feel ashamed to have mail bags go out of my office in a ragged, dilapidated or unsafe condition. It is a blessed thing such P. M.'s are not women, and those women wives, for with such housekeepers their poor husbands would be driven to bard drinking it nothing worse.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

Depredation Cases.

ARRREST AND COMMITMENT OF A MAIL ROBBER.—Special Agent Tyner, of Indiana, informs us that John Tucker, Mail Messenger at Vincennes, employed in conveying mails to and from the railroad depots and the post-office, was arrested on the 3d June, on a charge of robbing the mail. He had an examination, and the bond for appearance was fixed at \$3,000, in default of which he was committed to jail.

When arrested, twelve empty locked mail bags were found hidden in his room, all of which are supposed to have been rifled. Envelopes, letters, ambrotypes, photographs, socks, jewelry, false teeth, and sundry other articles stolen from the mails were found in his possession; and in his trunk, a whole sack of mail made up at St. Louis for Evansville, with a broken lock. He served as a stage-driver several years ago, and has been almost continuously employed in handling mail for the last sixteen years. Tucker had in possession, when caught, a brass mail key that went out of use about nine years ago, leaving the inference pretty clear that he has been stealing for a long time. He stole whole hags of mail, as he never had access to them so as to steal smaller quantities.

WARREN H. DECKER, an ex-clerk in the Post Office at Sutherland Falls, Vt., arrested by Special Agent Sharretts for taking letters, intended for delivery, from the mail car, on the Rutland and Burlington Railroad, before they had reached their destination, was examined before U. S. Commissioner Pierpont, at Rutland, on the 4th of May, and held to appear before the U. S. Grand Jury, to be held in July. Decker has been recently dismissed—but representing himself as Assistant Postmaster, he was permitted by the route agent to take from the mail bag the letters addressed to the Sutherland Falls Post Office. This arrest will doubtless exercise no small salutary influence on a class of persons who have been in the habit of meddling with mail matter in transition in that locality.

POST OFFICE ROBBERY.—On the 24th ult. Rush R. Sloane, Special Agent, made affidavit for the arrest of Wm. Worth Park for stealing letters from the Columbus, O. Post Office. He was engaged as one of the mail-boys for the Ohio Statesman, coming to the post-office at 3 and 5 A. M., to bring the papers from that office for the early mails, and at such time, Judge Sloane supposes, he took the letters, as opportunity was thus offered. Upon searching his room and trunk, Judge Sloane found sufficient and abundant evidence of guilt, taking over thirty letters from his possession. United States Commissioner Crittenden, who issued the warrant, held the defendant to bail for his appearance at the United States Court, in the sum of \$500.

On May 5th, Horace L. Jones, postmaster at White River, Mich., was arrested by Special Agent Van Vechten, for mail robbery. On the 19th of the same month he was indicted, and convicted on the 25th. He had been guilty of various depredations, and the special office for which he was tried was the abstraction of a draft for \$2076 38 from a letter passing through his office in November last, upon which he forged an endorsement and obtained the money. He had heretofore borne a good character, and was engaged in rather an extensive business.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK, Editor.

NEW YORK, JULY, 1864.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General. To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—Hereafter, each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail will bear a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whose this number reaches marked 46, or a lower number, will please remit at once.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them at as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official information on postal matters.

Our new subscribers who write requesting back numbers are informed that in consequence of the demand for the May No., our edition for that month is exhausted. We can furnish the back numbers from February last, omitting May.

Under the head of "Communications" in another column, several of our friends who have submitted to us various "vexed questions" in regard to the proper construction of the law as to the collection of quarterly and yearly postage on printed matter will find their inquiries answered in full. The replies there given having been submitted to the Department and approved before publication, they may be considered as official.

THE MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.—We are in receipt of numerous inquiries as to the time when the postal money order system will be put into operation—what offices are to be designated as money order offices, etc. We can only reply that the necessary arrangements are being perfected at the Department as rapidly as possible, and that when those arrangements are complete the system will go into practical effect. The precise time at which this will be done we are not now able to specify, nor can we furnish a list of the proposed money order offices.

"MONSIEUR TONSON."—The letters of our correspondent who writes over this signature attract, as they deserve, a good deal of attention. In his pleasant, gossiping way, Monsieur T. tells us some very plain and important truths, which we commend to the careful perusal of all belonging to the post-office fraternity. We have reason to know that in more than one instance they have led to the cessation of irregular postal practices. To those who have written us questions as to his personality, we can only say that while our eccentric friend prefers to "move in a mysterious way," we do not feel at liberty to raise the mask.

POSTMASTER AT MEMPHIS, TENN.—Robert C. Gist, Esq. formerly Special Agent in charge of the Memphis Post Office, has, in conformity to the nearly unanimous wish of the citizens of that place, been appointed its Postmaster by the President, and the appointment has been confirmed by the Senate. We congratulate both our friend Gist and the community whose postal interests he has so faithfully served.

Postage on Manuscripts.

The 24th section of the Postal Law of 1863, authorizing book manuscripts to be sent at printed rates of postage, cannot be so construed as to include articles for newspapers and magazines, but must be confined to book manuscripts alone.

I am, etc.,
St. JOHN E. L. SKINNER,
Acting 1st Ass't P. M. Gen.

The New York Daily Times, in commenting upon the above decision, says:

"The amended postal law which went into effect last July, prescribes (Sec. 24) that book manuscripts and corrected proofs, passing between authors and publishers, may pass at the rate of printed matter. The intent of this provision is clear: it is that all manuscripts, intended for publication, and containing no private communication, shall pass through the mails at printed rates."

Without applying the doctrine of "strict construction" too closely to this matter, we must say that the "clear intent" that "all manuscripts intended for publication" should be allowed to pass through the mails at the same rate of postage as printed matter, which is so plainly visible to the Times, is beyond the reach of our eyesight. If such had been the clear intent of the framers of the provision referred to, how exceedingly easy it would have been to express that intent in some such language as this: "all corrected proofs, and all manuscripts and communications intended for publication, passing between the writers thereof and the publishers of books, newspapers and magazines, shall pass at the rate of printed matter." The use of the words "book manuscripts" and "authors" appear to us to be indications of an intent to exclude newspaper correspondence and magazine articles from the privilege of being rated the same as printed matter—and there are in our opinion good reasons for such exclusion. But the Times takes no exception to the law—confining its criticism entirely to the decision quoted above, which it discourteously terms "absurd"—but which, we venture to assert, embodies the only view of the matter which can be taken by a fair-minded person who will take the "clear intent" of the law as a guide, and who is in no way interested in the rates of postage on newspaper correspondence and magazine articles.

The Times refers to this construction of the law as a new one; whereas the same decision was rendered by the same authority in August, 1863.

New Post Office Law.

The bill mentioned in our last number, providing for the substitution of salaries in place of commissions, as compensation to postmasters, has passed both Houses of Congress, and has no doubt received, ere this, the signature of the President, making it a law. Many postmasters, we understand, have been apprehensive that this measure would have the effect of decreasing the revenue which they derive from the office, but this we are confident will not, nor was it contemplated that it should, be the case. The compensation of postmasters will remain practically the same as before the passage of the law—and will be increased in proportion to the amount of business transacted, as heretofore. A postmaster of an office included in the "fifth class" has the opportunity, by exerting himself to increase the business of the office, to bring it up to the necessary amount to entitle it to a place in the "fourth class," by which his compensation in the form of salary will be increased to the same extent that it would have been in the form of commissions—with the additional advantage that he is saved the complicated and often vexatious labor of a quarterly computation of those commissions, and that the task of correctly keeping the accounts of his office is greatly simplified.

We have delayed the issue of this number a few days in order to procure a copy of the law, and it will be found published in full on our first page. The attention of Special Agents is particularly directed to section 12.

PRIVATE QUARRELS AND PUBLIC DUTIES.—A case was recently brought to our attention of a postmaster who misused his office by detaining, under a frivolous pretext, the correspondence of an individual residing within the delivery of his office, who happened to be a personal enemy. Complaint having been made to the Department by the person aggrieved, steps were taken by a special agent to ascertain the truth of the charge, and a simple test having clearly revealed the fact of the postmaster's delinquency, he was promptly removed, notwithstanding the fact that he was a man of venerable age, had held the office many years, and had been generally correct in the performance of his duties. No postmaster or post office clerk should allow his private feelings to lead him into violations of his official duty: his bitterest foe should receive at his hands the same consideration and attention as his most intimate friend, so far as concerns post-office matters, and when he finds that he cannot avoid using his position as a means of avenging his private griefs he may safely consider it an indication that the proper time for tendering his resignation has arrived.

NEW POST OFFICE AT SYRACUSE.—The citizens of Syracuse have just reason to felicitate themselves upon the increased comfort and convenience secured to them by the removal of their Post Office to the new block, recently erected by C. Basible, Esq., a most estimable and enterprising gentleman.

The new office is roomy, light, well ventilated, admirably arranged and well located; is replete with every improvement essential to the prompt and speedy dispatch of postal business; a wide hall or arcade running through the entire building affords ample accommodation to the continued throng of business people and others of both sexes, in all kinds of weather, without causing the least crowding or confusion about the several deliveries. We congratulate the Postmaster and his very efficient Assistant on the improved condition of things, and hope that their efforts to accomplish this much needed change will be appreciated by the community.

Route Agents' Salaries.

Postmaster General Blair has addressed to Hon. Senator Dixon the following letter on the subject of the increase of the pay of Route Agents, petitioned for by them. While paying a well-deserved tribute to the fidelity and usefulness of this class of officials, Judge Blair feels bound by a sense of public duty to oppose the movement, and in doing so makes use of arguments the soundness of which will be admitted even by those whose interests they unfavorably affect. We have no doubt that the Postmaster General would personally be glad to favor the desire of the petitioners, and would do so but for the high public considerations referred to in his letter.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June, 1864.

DEAR SIR:—In reference to the communication of Mr. Francis E. Harrison, referred by you to me, I beg to say, that he has been misinformed as to the fact alleged, that I had denied the right of petition to Route Agents. I have a great respect for that class of public officers, and only speak what I know to be just to them when I say, that as a class they are most deserving. But whilst I have not denied their right to petition Congress for an increase of pay, I have not thought it my duty to favor their petition. I do not think this the proper time to increase the salaries of any class of public officers whose places can be filled at the present pay; and whilst I intend to make a slight increase of the compensation, in individual cases, as heretofore, where by special merit or greater service, the persons seem to me entitled to it, I shall not, unless required by Congress, make any general increase of the pay of this, or any other class of officers in this department. I regret extremely, that some of this class, and other employees of the Department, have been engaged in the effort to concert an organized movement to procure such an increase of pay; it distracts attention from their proper business, and breeds dissatisfaction. The avidity with which the places are sought for by persons of recognized competency to fill them shows that, whilst the duties are arduous and the pay low, yet they are in great demand. With this undeniable fact before me, I do not feel at liberty—because I feel greatly indebted to those officers for the fidelity with which they have served the Department under my charge—whilst the war lasts, to recommend a general increase of pay.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully yours,
M. BLAIR,
Postmaster General.

What the Soldiers think of Mail-Robbers.

A soldier of the Army of the Potomac, who had been written to for information in regard to some of his comrades whose letters are supposed to have been stolen by Eggleston, the clerk in the Oswego office, whose arrest by Special Agent Sharrett we noticed in our last, thus energetically expresses his sentiments in regard to the robber of soldiers' letters in general, and the culprit in this case in particular:

"I should be glad to do anything to assist in ferreting out any of this set of blood-suckers who are thriving in luxury on the blood of the penitentiary, he will not get his deserts. If he were here in the army, a drum-head court-martial would bring his evil life to a sudden finale—though shooting would be too good for such a man. It is well that he has been doing was discovered. Justice would have been meted out to him with a will—and if our friends do not use their utmost endeavors to secure the punishment of such a scoundrel, they must be unmindful of the sacred obligations and trust they have in charge. No one can tell the misery, want and woe these mail-robbers have caused among the families of those who were their fellow soldiers in the front rank. Many who folded their letters, and directed them to friends at home with loving, hopeful words, were destined never to know that those kind friends and anxious relatives never received those missives. Before the summer had passed, the bones of the writers were bleaching on the hills around Gettysburg, while Eggleston, and such as he, were rioting with the money coined from the heart's blood and lives of those brave men."

OVERCHARGING FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.—We have noticed one or two paragraphs lately in the papers, complaining that soldiers, and other persons under circumstances which rendered the procuring of stamps a matter of difficulty, have been charged four or five times their value by unprincipled persons willing to take advantage of their necessities. By the Postal Laws, the offence of selling a U. S. postage stamp or stamped envelope, by postmasters or other persons, for a larger sum than that expressed upon its face, is punishable by a fine of from ten to five hundred dollars. We would like to see the maximum amount transferred to the Treasury from the pockets of some catfif mean enough to practice this petty swindle upon a soldier.

AN ENTERPRISING YOUTH.—A young man in the employ of a mercantile house in New York, called recently at the post office there and received two foreign letters addressed to his employers, which letters were marked respectively 30 and 22 cents postage due—which amounts he paid and departed. Shortly afterwards, he made his appearance in the Secretary's office, demanding the return of \$2 98 postage, with which he claimed to have been overcharged. An examination into the matter revealed the fact that the "plunderer" had conceived the ingenious idea of prefixing a "5" to the "22" on one letter, adding a "0" to the final 2, and inserting "51" before the figures on the 30 cent letter! It is needless to add that the young gentleman soon took his leave—"a sadder and wiser" though not a richer man—but if he will only persevere in such promising financial schemes he will no doubt one day "retire (involuntarily) from business" to an elegant mansion on the Hudson—perhaps not far from Sing Sing.

FALSE POSTMARKS.—It has been ascertained, in the investigation of certain frauds through the post-office, to be at least highly probable, if not certain, that some postmasters or their clerks have aided those frauds by affixing to letters a postmark bearing a different date to that on which the letters were forwarded. It should be understood that such a practice is in direct violation of the Regulations of the Department, and would certainly be considered cause for removal.

COMMUNICATIONS.

P. O. H.—Conn.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Please answer two questions: 1. By Section 18, Act of March 3, 1863, it is provided that "if the term of subscription to a newspaper or periodical sent to a regular subscriber commences at any other time than at the beginning of a quarter, such payment must be made to cover such fractional quarter, and also for the next following quarter." Instruction No. 18, explanatory of the above section, says: "If the subscription commences from the 1st of August, payment must be made to the 31st of December. Not more than one year's postage can be collected in advance." Now suppose a subscriber to the Daily Times, whose subscription commenced May 15, 1863, complied with this provision by paying postage to 30th Sept., and continued to pay quarterly in advance up to March 31, 1864. His subscription ends on May 15, 1864, and he does not wish to renew it. When I present his bill for postage on the 31st March, am I obliged to make him pay for the whole of the next quarter—that is, to 30th June, when he is to receive his paper for only half of that quarter?

The language of the law is, that "the postage shall be paid before delivery for not less than one quarter nor more than one year." The subscriber referred to had paid already

From 15th May to 30th Sept., 1 1/4 quarters.
" 1st Oct. to 31st Dec., 1 quarter.

making 2 1/4 quarters. On the 1st January, 1864, he should have paid to the 15th May, 1 1/4 quarters—which would complete his year's payment. Or, if, on the 1st June, he pays only to March 31st, he is, on the 1st of April, entitled to the privilege of paying the remaining half-quarter's postage by virtue of having already complied with the law by paying for "not less than one quarter"—namely, for three and a half quarters. The words "beginning of a quarter" refer to the beginning of the official quarters—Jan. 1, April 1, July 1, and Oct. 1; and the words "to cover such fractional quarter" mean, to cover the unexpired portion of the quarter during which the subscription commences.

2. If a person desires to subscribe for a newspaper for three months only, and his subscription commences (say) October 15, and expires Jan. 15, must I collect postage up to March 31, thus obliging him to pay five and a half months' postage on a three months' subscription?

This question has been answered once before; but we repeat what was then announced as the official construction of the law by the Department: a three months' subscriber to a newspaper or periodical, whose subscription begins at any other time than the commencement of an official quarter, may pay quarterly postage for the whole of that quarter, and it will be considered as payment for the term of his subscription, though the "quarter" for which he pays the postage does not begin and end at the same dates as his subscription. So a subscriber who begins his subscription on 15th October, to end 15th January, is, by paying the postage for the official quarter beginning October 1st and ending December 30th, exempt from further payment.

Editor U. S. Mail:—If a subscriber to a newspaper or periodical who has paid quarterly or yearly postage in advance, changes his residence before the expiration of the time for which he has paid such postage, and orders the paper sent for the remainder of his term of subscription to the post-office at his new residence, is he liable to be charged a second time with the postage?

If he presents a receipt from the P. M. at his former residence, showing that the postage has been prepaid for a quarter or year, should I deliver the paper without further charge for the balance of that quarter or year?

When a subscriber to a newspaper or periodical has paid the postage quarterly or yearly in advance, and changes his residence before such subscription shall expire, he should write to the publisher and request him to send the paper direct from the office of publication to his new residence. It will then be the duty of the P. M. at the office of delivery to deliver the same without further charge for the remainder of the quarter or year, as the case may be, and as specified in the receipt of the postmaster at the former residence of the subscriber.

Iowa, June, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail:—We have some trouble with some of our merchants, insurance agents and others in regard to sending business cards put up in packages of from 25 to 100, they claiming that they should go as paper postage, namely, 2 cts. per 4 ounces, or fraction. On the other hand, we claim that they go as circulars, at the rate of 3 for 2 cts. Now, will you please settle this question through the columns of your paper, and oblige many subscribers.

Respectfully yours,

S. W., Ass't Postmaster.

By Sec. 20, Law of 1863, "cards" are declared to belong to the third class of mailable matter; and by Sec. 34 of the same law, all miscellaneous matter of the third class (except circulars and books) is chargeable with two cents postage for each four ounces, or fraction thereof. No particular kind of "cards" being specified in the law, there is nothing, in our opinion, to prevent business cards from being forwarded at the above rate.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Can you inform me without inconvenience, whether a postmaster is under obligation to open the office for the delivery of mail matter on Sundays, when no mails are received on said day. Also, whether he can pre-empt the limited time of the day (I mean weekdays) for the delivery of mail matter; or must he, as some claim, open his office at any hour day or night, for the delivery of mail matter?

Yours truly,

B. C. P., P. M.

A postmaster is not obliged to open his office on Sundays unless a mail arrives on that day, in which case the office will be kept open for an hour or more. On week-days, the office will be kept open during the usual business hours. See Sec. 26, Regulations of 1859, for full directions on this subject.

Editor U. S. Mail:—What provision is made to defray the expense of Postmasters' worn quarterly account with revenue 5 cent stamp appended. Must the postmaster charge this as incidental expense, or pay it himself?

It cannot be charged as an incidental expense and must be paid by the postmaster himself.

Editor U. S. Mail:—I have a question which I would like to have answered through the columns of your paper. The post-office at this place is opened at six o'clock in the morning and closed at a quarter past eight in the evening, but still there is considerable grumbling about its not being opened soon enough and closed too early. What are your views on the subject? An answer in the next month's Mail is requested.

Yours &c.,

F. J. K.,
Ass't Postmaster.

Our "views on the subject" are about these: The post-office being kept open fourteen hours and a quarter daily, everybody ought to be satisfied with the arrangement. If any are not, take the most public-spirited among the grumblers, swear him in as assistant, and give him the privilege of keeping the office open, and attending to the business thereof, during the remaining nine hours and three-quarters, gratis.

P. O., STONINGTON, CONN.,
June 20, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Observing in the June number of the U. S. Mail a notice of a certain wrapper that had travelled between Putnam and Thompson, Conn., seventy-four miles, I think I can beat even this. I sent a wrapper covering letters between this place and Westerly, R. I., over the route for more than five months, twice a day. This office has not purchased or ordered any wrapping paper since I was reinstated, (June 10, 1861) and I have old wrappers with only one direction on sufficient to last this office over six months.

F. WILLIAMS, P. M.

Mr. Williams invites any P. M. who thinks he can show a better record on the score of economy, to send along his vouchers.

POST OFFICE, S. VERMONT.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Will you please inform me through your paper if postmasters are justified in closing their offices on such days as 4th of July, Public Fast days, &c.

Not in closing them entirely. The office should be kept open during at least one hour of such days, and longer if necessary—consulting the convenience of the public, and with reference to the time of arrival of the mail.

"STOP MY PAPER!" is not usually a grateful sound to the ear of an editor; but the writer of the following has contrived in a most graceful manner to soften the pain of parting, as a surgeon dips his knife in oil before an amputation: MIDDLETOWN, PA., June 6th, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail:—You will please discount my paper on receipt of this letter. I am under the impression that I have paid for it until the present time; if not, please inform me and I will forward you the balance due you.

Having retired from the position of postmaster (which I held at the time I subscribed for your paper)—with the personal assurance of the Hon. P. M. General Blair that I had given entire satisfaction to the Department and to the citizens of this town in the performance of my duties as postmaster, I must in justice say that I feel much indebted for this flattering compliment, from so high a source, to the information I received from the monthly perusal of your very valuable paper, which I was fortunate in receiving every month of my official service. It is a paper that no postmaster can do without.

Respectfully yours, &c.,
WALTER H. KENNO.

MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL.

In accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress recently passed, authorizing the establishment of ocean mail steamship service between the United States and Brazil, the Postmaster General has advertised for proposals. Twelve round trips are to be performed annually for a term of ten years, commencing on or before the 1st of September, 1865. The steamships offered for this service must be American, of first class, and no proposal will be accepted unless the bidder is also accepted by the government of Brazil. The Department is not advised that any definite action has yet been taken by Brazil in respect to the establishment of the proposed service between the two countries.

"TUTTLE'S CORNERS."—Look out for swindling circulars dated at Tuttle's Corners, N. J., stating that one J. H. Tuttle, of that place, has a sealed package for the individual to whom the circular is sent, which he will forward on receipt of a specified sum. The "sealed package" (sealed by the ingenious J. H. T. himself) consists of a trashy book, not worth 5 cents, and the whole operation is the scheme of a rascal too lazy to earn an honest living. There is now no post-office called Tuttle's Corners—it having been discontinued in April last by the Postmaster General.

The carrier system recently established in Buffalo and Rochester is in successful operation, and is justly popular with the people of those cities. Lockport, New York, is to be favored in this way as soon as the postmaster can perfect his arrangements.

The desire of the Postmaster General to simplify the delivery of letters, so that all can be served at their homes, is worth, of the highest commendation, and for it he deserves, and will receive, the thanks of the millions who will be benefited by his exertions.

Postmasters are reminded that their franking privilege is now confined to their letters on official business to the Department and to other postmasters. Postage paid by them on letters to special agents and others whom it is found necessary to address on official business will be allowed in their expense account.

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS ORDERING THE "MAIL."—Please write your name in full—as this address "P. M." on a newspaper wrapper without a name may cause its non-receipt. Also, write the name of your State in full, to prevent mistakes and ensure the receipt of your paper.

Some of our subscribers request us to furnish them with copies of the Postal Laws and Regulations. This we are unable to do. Applications of this nature should be addressed to the First Assistant Postmaster General, Washington.

Some of the country postmen in England, who have long distances to travel to distribute letters to widely detached houses, are using velocipedes to assist them in their labors.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

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TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES. N. Brunswick, Cape Breton, * 10 cents when not over Prince Edward's Island, & 3,000 miles from the line Nova Scotia, to New- foundland prepayment re- quired, to Canada, 10c. per oz., any distance. Steamer's of the Cunard line sail from Boston twice each month, touching at Halifax, and when letters are sent by that coast voyage for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island, the U. S. postage is 5 cents the single rate, to be prepaid. The inland rate is collected on delivery. On newspapers by this route, the postage is two cents each.

Newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and sent to regular subscribers in the British North American Provinces, or published in those Provinces and sent to regular subscribers in the United States, are chargeable with the regular pre-paid quarterly rates of United States postage to and from the line; which postage must be collected at the office of mailing in the United States on matter sent, and at the office of delivery in the United States on matter received. In like manner, such matter, if transmissible with the regular domestic transient printed matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States, as the case may be. Editors, however, may exchange their respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

Valuable letters for Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen or Hamburg line via New York, or by the Prussian closed mail via New York and Boston, as also letters addressed to Great Britain and Canada, will be registered on the application of the person posting the same, in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States, provided that the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of twenty cents on each letter to Great Britain or Ireland, and five cents on each letter to the other places mentioned above, is prepaid at the mailing office. Such letters should be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS, ETC.
All letters to and from foreign countries (the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, France and the British North American Provinces excepted) are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of half an ounce; double rate, if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding an ounce; quadruple rate, if exceeding an ounce, but not exceeding two ounces; and so on, charging two rates for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce over the first ounce. The rate differs from the rule above in the case of domestic letters, great care is requisite to prevent mistakes. Letters in the mail to France are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of one quarter ounce; double rate if exceeding a quarter, but not exceeding half an ounce; and so on, an additional rate being charged for each quarter ounce or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Letters addressed to the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, and to the British North American Provinces, are rated in the same manner as domestic letters, one rate being charged for each half ounce or fractional part of half an ounce. Postmasters should be careful, where the postage is required, to collect the proper amount, and to be particularly to notice the route indicated on the envelope of letters, and to collect postage accordingly. Letters mailed at some offices, marked "via England," or "via Jamaica," or "via New York," for a German State, are frequently taken upon the return of the letter, and those marked "via Bremen," at Prussian closed rates, &c.

RULE OF RATING LETTERS GOING VIA FRANCE
In the case of letters to be forwarded to Great Britain for transmission from England via "Marseilles," the French postage is rated at cents the quarter ounce, except on letters for Java, China, Labuan, Borneo, Japan, the Moluccas and Philippine Islands, which are rated at eight cents per half ounce, and except also on letters for Syria and Tunis, by French packet, when the single French rate is 12 cents per quarter ounce. The rates by French mail are in full to destination, in the case of the following places, viz.: Austria, Ceylon, China, cities of Turkey, in Europe, except as herein mentioned, via Austria, countries beyond the frontier of Austria, France, other than those of India, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Java, Mauritius, Montenegro, Penang, Portugal, Isle of Re-Union, Servia, (except Belgrade), Shanghai, Singapore and Spain. (The exception to Spain is for letters to Madrid, and to Behobia; to Servia, (except Belgrade), Montenegro, and cities of Turkey in Europe, except as herein mentioned, "via Austria," the frontier of Turkey and Austria to Aden, East Indies, Ceylon, China, and other countries via Suez, the seaports of, or from, the East Indies, and to places beyond seas, other than those designated, the limit is the port of arrival in the country of destination. Letters may be forwarded to the French mails to Moldavia, Wallachia, and Turkey in Europe, by way of France and Austria; but the postage thereon must in all cases be paid at the place of destination.

RATES ON PAMPHLETS, MAGAZINES, ETC.
On pamphlets and magazines, to or from the West coast of South America, the United States postage is four cents; and to or from all other foreign countries, (except Great Britain and the British North American Provinces,) one cent an ounce or fraction of an ounce; to be collected in all cases in the United States.

Newspapers and periodicals to foreign countries (particularly to the continent of Europe) must be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides, or in packets; otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage.

ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, ETC.
To prevent mistakes at the exchange offices, it is desirable that the particular routes by which letters are to be forwarded from the United States to Europe, should be distinctly written on the covers. Letters intended for transmission in the open mail to England, should bear the direction "open mail via England;" if for transmission in the French mail, they should be directed, "via France in French mail;" if for transmission by closed mail to Prussia, they should be directed "via Prussian closed mail;" if for transmission in the closed mail to Belgium, they should be directed "via French closed mail;" and if for transmission by the New York and Bremen line to Bremen, or by the New York and Hamburg line to Hamburg, they should be directed "via Bremen" or "via Hamburg."

It is important that letters addressed to Germany and other European countries, via France, where the single rate per quarter ounce is 12 cents, should be plainly marked to be sent via France; otherwise they may be misdirected in the open mail to Liverpool, or in the French packet, the 21 cent rate per half ounce being also chargeable on letters thus forwarded.

DATE OF DEPARTURE OF EUROPEAN, SOUTH PACIFIC AND HAVANA MAIIS, FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 1864.

Name of the Line	Government belonging to	Date of Departure from New York	Date of Departure from Boston	DESTINATION
Bremen	U. S.	2	2	Southampton & Bremen
Dales	U. S.	2	2	Queenstown.
Aspinwall	U. S.	2	2	South Pacific, &c.
Cunard	U. S.	5	6	Liverpool.
Dales	U. S.	9	9	Queenstown & Liverpool
Hamburg	U. S.	9	9	Hamburg.
Havana	U. S.	13	13	Havana and Mexico.
Cunard	U. S.	13	13	Liverpool.
Aspinwall	U. S.	13	13	South Pacific & C. A.
Dales	U. S.	16	16	Queenstown.
Havana	U. S.	16	16	Southampton & Bremen
Nassau	U. S.	16	16	Havana & Nassau.
Cunard	U. S.	19	19	Liverpool.
Aspinwall	U. S.	23	23	South Pacific, &c.
Hamburg	U. S.	23	23	Southampton & Bremen
Dales	U. S.	23	23	Queenstown.
Cunard	U. S.	27	27	Liverpool.
Bremen	U. S.	30	30	Southampton & Bremen
Dales	U. S.	30	30	Queenstown.

A closed mail, consisting of Letters and Newspapers for States and Cities of the German-Austrian Postal-Union, and Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Greece, Ionian Islands, &c., is sent from this office semi-weekly. * Mail for the West Indies sent by this Steamer.

COUNTRIES.	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Newspap'rs.	Pamphlets per ounce.
Aspenico.	10	2	1	
Aden, British mail, via Southampton	38	5	4	
do do via Marseilles	30	6		
do French mail	30	6		
Adriano, French mail	30	6		
Africa, (West Coast.) British mail	30	6		
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail	30	6		
do French mail	30	6		
do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	21	2		
do do by Brit. pkt.	5	2		
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	6		
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6		
do French mail	30	6		
do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	21	2		
do do by Brit. pkt.	5	2		
Algeria, French mail	15	3	1	
Altona, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 31c.)	30	6		
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6		
do French mail	30	6		
Anzari, French mail	27	5	4	
Arabia, British mail, via Southampton	30	6		
do do via Marseilles	39	4	6	
Argentine Republic, via England	45	4	4	
Ascension, via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	6		
Aspinwall, for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles	10	2	1	
do for distances exceeding 2,500 miles	30	6		
Australia, British mail, via Southampton	39	4	6	
do do by private ship from N. York or Boston	30	6		
do French mail (South Austr. s. comp'ry)	30	6		
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Suez	50	10	7	
do by Bremen & Hamburg mail, via Trieste	50	10	7	
Austria and its States, Prussian closed mail	30	6		
do do do when prepaid	28	3	1	
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	1	
do do (except prov. in Italy) French mail	21	2		
Azores Island, British mail, via Portugal	29	3	8	
Baden, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 28c.)	30	6		
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6		
Bahamas, by direct steamer from New York	21	2		
Bankok, Siam, via Southampton	45	4	6	
do do via Marseilles	51	5	8	
Barva, British mail, via Southampton	45	4	6	
do do via Marseilles	51	5	8	
do French mail	30	6		
Bavaria, Prussian closed mail	30	6		
do do do when prepaid	28	3	1	
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	1	
do French mail	21	2		
Belgium, French mail	21	2		
do closed mail, via England	42	5	5	
do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	31	2		
do do by Brit. packet	5	2		
Belgrade, do do by American pkt.	5	2		
do do do by British packet	5	2		
do by French mail	21	2		
Berout, French closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	42	6		
do French mail	30	6		
Bogota, New Granada	19	6	4	
Bolivia	34	6	4	
Borneo, British mail, via Southampton	45	4	6	
do do via Marseilles	53	10		
do French mail	30	6		
Bourbon, British mail, via Southampton	30	6		
do do via Marseilles	39	4	6	
do French mail	30	6		
Brazil, via England	30	6		
Bremen, Prussian closed mail from Bordeaux	33	6		
do do do when prepaid	30	6		
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	1	
do French mail	21	2		
Br. N. Am. Prov., ex. Canada, dis. not over 3000m	21	2		
do do exceeding 3000 miles	30	6		
Brunswick, Prussian mail	30	6		
do do do when prepaid	28	3	1	
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	1	
do French mail	21	2		
Buenaventura	21	18	6	4
Buenos Ayres, via England	45	4	6	
do do via France, by Fr. ml. from Bordeaux	30	6		
Calcutta, Prussian closed mail	30	6		
Canada, British mail, via Southampton	30	6		
do do via Marseilles	39	4	6	
do French mail	30	6		
Canary Islands, via England	33	4	6	
Candia, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	6		
do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	5	4		
do do do by Brit. packet	5	4		
Canada, British mail, by American packet	21	2		
do do by British packet	5	2		
do French closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	6		
do French mail	30	6		
Cape of Good Hope, via England	30	4	4	
Cape de Verde Islands, via England	29	3	4	
do do in French mail, via Bordeaux and Lisbon	30	6		
Carthagen	18	6		
C. Amer. Pac. Slope, via Panama (ex. Guatemala and Costa Rica)	20	2	1	
Ceylon, open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2		
do do do by Brit. packet	5	2		
do French mail	30	6		
do British mail, via Southampton	39	4	6	
do do do via Marseilles	39	4	6	
China, British mail, via Southampton	45	4	6	
do do do via Marseilles	53	8		
do do do by Brit. or Hamb'g ml. via Trieste	55	8		
do do do by Brit. or Hamb'g ml. via Marseilles & Suez	40	6		
do French mail	30	6		
do by ml. to San Fran., thence by private ship	3	3		
Constantinople, Prus. closed mail (if prepaid 38c.)	40	6		
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6		
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6		
do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2		
do do do by Brit. pkt.	5	2		
Cork, do do	5	2		
Cornwall, British mail, by American packet	21	2		
do do do by British packet	5	2		
do French mail	15	3	1	
Costa Rica	10	2	1	
Cuba, when distance does not exceed 2,500 miles	10	2	1	
do do does exceed 2,500 miles	30	6		
Curacao, via England	45	4	6	
Cuxhaven, Prussian closed mail	30	6		
do do do when prepaid	28	3	1	
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	1	
do French mail	21	2		
Dardanelles, Prus. closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	6		
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6		
Denmark, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 33c.)	30	6		
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6		
do French mail	27	5	4	
Durazzo, Prussian closed mail	30	6		
do French mail	30	6		
East Indies, open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2		
do do do by British packet	5	2		
do Prussian closed mail, via Trieste	68	13		
do (English possessions.) Prussian closed mail, via Trieste	36	10		
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Suez	40	7	2	
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Trieste	30	6		
Ecuador	34	6	4	
Egypt, (except Alexandria, Cairo and Suez.)	33	6		
do (except Alexandria, Cairo and Suez.)	33	6		
do British mail, via Marseilles	33	4	8	
do (except Alexandria, Cairo and Suez.)	33	4	8	
do Prussian closed mail	36	6		
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6		
do do French mail	30	6		
[To places excepted above, 21c. by U. S. packet or 5c. by Brit. pack. per oz. or prepayment compulsory.]				
Falkland Islands, via England	33	4		
France	15	3	1	
Frankfort, French mail	21	2		
do do do do when prepaid	20	2		
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	1	
Galata, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	6		
do French mail	30	6		

COUNTRIES.	Not exceeding quarter ounce.	Not exceeding half ounce.	Newspap'rs.	Pamphlets per ounce.
Galata, open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2		
do do do by Brit. pkt.	5	2		
Gallipoli, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 38c.)	40	6		
do do do do	40	6		
Gambia, via England	33	4	6	
Gandolphe, via England	45	4	6	
Guatemala	10	2	1	
German States, Prus. closed mail (if prepaid, 28c.)	30	6		
do do do	21	2		
do do (except Luxemburg) by Ham'g ml.	15	3	1	
Gibraltar, French mail	21	2		
do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2		
do do do by Brit. packet	5	2		
Great Britain and Ireland	24	2		
Greece, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 40c.)	30	6		
do do do	30	6		
do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	6		
do do do	30	6		
do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2		
do do do by British packet	5	2		
Hamburg, by Hamburg mail, direct from N. York	21	2		
do do do	21	2		
do do do	21	2		
do do do when prepaid	28	3	1	
Hanover, Prussian closed mail	21	2		
do do do when prepaid	28	3	1	
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	15	3	1	
Havana—see Cuba.	21	2		
Haiti, via England	45	4	6	
Heligoland, Island of, by British mail, in Am. pkt.	21	2		
do do do in British pkt.	5	2		
do do do via England, by private ship	21	2		
Holland, French mail	21	2		
do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2		
do do do do by Brit. pkt.	5	2		
Holstein, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid,				

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Vol. IV., No. 11.

NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1864.

WHOLE No. 47.

Soldiers' Letters.

The mail! The mail!
And sunburnt cheeks and eager eyes
Come crowding round the captain's tent,
Each outstretched hand receives the prize
For fond personal merit.
Unless distressing news be told,
These letters naught of pain convey,
For friends at home will never scold
The lad that's far away.

The mail! The mail!
And toll-stained palms are closing there—
How rough! how very coarsely moulded—
On dainty missives, fresh and fair,
By lily fingers folded.
For kindly thoughts pursue the youth
Who battles with his country's foe,
Nor soiled attire, nor gross uncouth
Prevents their genial flow.

The mail! The mail!
A father's words of pride and cheer;
A mother's trembling admonition;
A sister's blessing—oh, how dear!
A brother's generous wishing.
And many missives, frank and bright,
From early friend and neighbor boy;
Each page a volume of delight—
A humming cup of joy.

The mail! The mail!
And stillness rules the bolsterous throng,
And 'silence half an hour prevails,
The heaven of those who wait so long
The coming of the mails.
Each reads his own, and these alone,
No soldier seeks to play the spy,
And letters, where'er they're thrown,
Are safe from every eye.

History of the British Post Office.

We copy from "The Reader," an English publication, the following review of a book recently issued, entitled

Her Majesty's Mails: an Historical and Descriptive Account of the British Post Office. By WILLIAM LEWIS.

This is a well-timed book. All Englishmen have heard with sorrow of the retirement from his post of the reformer who, as Mr. Lewis says, has "more than any living man succeeded in drawing close the domestic ties of the nation, and extending in innumerable ways the best interests of social life." A long course of ignorant and partial opinions has done little to work on the energetic pioneers of improvement and civilization; and, thwarted and hindered to the last, Sir Rowland Hill, with wearied brain and broken health, is forced to resign the post he won so hardily and filled so well. Hard it is that, after such a career as his—after the creation of a system which has wrought such incalculable good to the world, and been followed by an admiring world—Sir Rowland Hill should not have been allowed to carry out his further measures of reform, and to complete the organ he had designed; but, however hard it is, so it is.

But to turn to the history of the Office.—Though there is no allusion to a regular post in the pleasant Paston letters, where Margery writes for her "rown cloth of mussyd-dyvelers," and the new gridle that he inquired since has made necessary—"I may not be girl in no bar of no gridle that I have, but of one"—Mr. Lewis tells us that a regular riding post was established in England in Edward the Fourth's time, superseding the earlier *messengers*, who carried the letters haked "in the post, but in the former days." After him, Henry III. did somewhat for the improvement of the postal department, and appointed a Master of the Postes, with entire control of it; but the pace at which letters were conveyed may be guessed from the Master's statement:—

When placards he sent for such cause [viz. to order the immediate forwarding of some state papers] the constables many tyme he fuyne to take burres out of plowes and earis *whereas* can be no extreme diligence.

In 1536 we are able to test the speed at which letters traveled by the dates on one of Archbishop Parker's to Cecil. The Archbishop despatches it from Croydon at four of the clock, afternoon, on the 22nd of July; it reaches Waltham Cross the next evening at nine, Ware at midnight, and is delivered at Croxton on the 24th of July, between seven and eight in the morning, having taken forty hours to go sixty-three miles. And there is no reason to suppose that any of the posts in that the Scotch express hoy whom Mr. Campbell met.

Near inventory we regained a spot of comparative civilization, and came up with the post-boy whose horse was quietly grazing at some distance, while as Red Jacket himself was immersed in play with other lads. "You rascal," I said to him, "are you the post-boy, and thus spending your time?" "Nae, nae, sir," he answered; "I'm no the post, I'm only an Express!"

It is to James I. and his successors that we owe the organization of a public letter-post both in land and foreign; and the Parliamentary appointee of 1644, Edmund Prideaux, a barrister of even years' standing, improved the inland service so greatly, that he not only made it pay his expenses, but carried a profit out of it, so that in 1650 the Post-Office revenue was formed for £5000. In 1649 the Common Council of London had established an office of its own for inland letters; but the Parliament would not stand this kind of competition, but the City Office down, and from this date the carrying of letters has been the exclusive privilege of the Crown. Cromwell was a warm supporter of the national Post-Office, though for an odd reason, which one of the Protectorate ordinances tells us: the Office could be made the agent in "discovering and preventing many wicked designs which have been and are daily contrived against the peace and welfare of this Commonwealth, the intelligence whereof cannot well be communicated except by letters of script." In 1656 a "postmaster-general" was appointed, and the Office

In an introduction to this statement of Mr. Lewis we may quote the following from "Extracts from Contemporary Documents and Letters relating to the last Ten Years of Edward the Fourth, A. D. 1475-1485," printed as part of a volume entitled "Chronicles of the White Rose of York" (London 1845). "The natural indolence and love of pleasure by which the establishment of one of the most useful and beneficial institutions of civilized life. During the Scottish campaign in order to enable the Duke of Gloucester to be in constant communication with his Royal brother, orders were first established in England. Messengers were placed at the distance of twenty miles from each other, on the road from Scotland to London. They delivered the Despatches from one to another, which by this means journeyed at the rate of 100 miles per day."

and system were improved under Charles II. The Turpin Act of 1663 gave the illegals better post roads, but the custom of franking letters, also begun in this year, tended to diminish the increasing postal revenue. How far this privilege was abused may be guessed from the fact that in 1763 the worth of the frank's passing through the post was estimated at £170,000, and this little tribe, of which the following list is a specimen, were franked by packet and mail:

Item. Fifteen couple of bonds, going to the King of the Romans with a free pass.

Item. Two maid servants, going as maudresses to my Lord Ambassador of Sweden.

Item. Doctor Orleton, carrying with him a cow and divers necessaries.

Item. Two boxes of stockings, for the use of the Ambassador to the Court of Portugal.

Item. A deal case, with four bottles of hachon, for Mr. Pennington of Rotterdam.

The first working penny post we owe, not to the Government, but to one Robert Murray, an upholsterer, who in 1683 was engaged that the official post did not deliver letters between one London and another; he therefore started an office to deliver papers (including very small panboxes) and letters under 1 lb. in weight or £10 in value for a penny in the City and suburbs, and twopence within a given ten mile radius, with six or eight deliveries a day near the exchange, and four in the outskirts. The scheme was a great success, but was soon crushed by the Duke of York, who however took Murray's sign, and gave into the Post Office service.

Then started up Povey's "Half penny post," but that was put down too; and in 1710 a statute of Queen Anne established "a General Post Office in all of Her Majesty's dominions." This act continued in force till 1837, when Mr. Rowland Hill, in his celebrated pamphlet, "Post-Office Reform: its Importance and Practicality," laid the foundation of the better order of things which has brought such comfort and blessings to our homes. Before him our forefathers were indebted for the establishment of mail coaches to Mr. Palmer, originally a brewer, and in 1764 manager of the Bath and Bristol Post-Office, who, though his opponents declared it was an impossibility that the Barbadoes could be brought to London in sixteen or eighteen hours, did, on the 8th of August, 1764, bring it up in fourteen hours. Another notable feature added to the Post-Office was the Money Order establishment, founded by three of the officers of the department in 1792, as a private business, and transferred to the office in 1838.

For the details of Sir Rowland Hill's plan, and the reform he ought by him in the Post-Office, we must refer the reader to Mr. Lewis's book. Mr. Lewis is the late Secretary of the Post Office, and Mr. B. Cook, the manager of the London District system, and many others whom we might name, it is matter of notoriety that many of Sir Rowland Hill's plans have been introduced, and many of his improvements partially imitated. Something more than a rumor is abroad that an attempt has been made to set aside his great principle of promotion by merit, and to substitute that by seniority; others in the minor establishments are ready to permit to try even the reform in the Major, and we know that, if a Lord's obligation had come into the lower office, he could not have passed into the higher, but must have seen young lions pass over his head, though he could have beaten them hollow in the pass examination. If the Hills and the Scudamores were peers and postmasters such things would not be allowed. The grievances of the letter carriers, too, are well known; but Sir Rowland's own theory and practice are a fault, we think, surely the men who earn the State money are entitled to share the profits they make a little more liberally than they do.

The second part of Mr. Lewis's book contains an interesting "Descriptive Account of the Post-Office," and an Appendix of Rules and Statistical Information, much to be read. It is full of anecdote, and has puzzles of addresses like the following:—

Ash Bodes in such
for John Hoesel, grinder
in the county of Leystebare

For Mister Willy wot hinds de Basher
in Lang Gaster waru te gl is

which you can guess at till you find the first is for Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and the second for the printer of a paper in the town where the goal is.

But we think Mr. Lewis has not mentioned the rebus addresses—like the cannon, the herry and the square, or the man and the pane—that postmen sometimes get; nor do we see the story of the proud mother relieving a Post-Office man for not having delivered a very particular letter, by observing "Oh, I dare say it was one of your stupid love-thing, and I've no doubt I hurt it. I always do throw 'em into the fire, when they look like young men's things. It's not of the least consequence, Mr. Inspector. Good morning."

In conclusion, we have only to say that Mr. Lewis's book is a most useful and complete one—that it should be put into the hand of every young Englishman and foreigner desiring to know how our institutions grow. The author's plan of giving an account "of the history and ordinary working of the revenue departments of the country," of doing for the great Governmental industries what Mr. Smiles has so ably done for the profession of civil engineering and several national industries, is an excellent one, and we wish it all success. We only hope that in all we may find the record of a Rowland Hill, whom we may (with Mr. Gladstone) call with truth, not merely a meritorious public servant, but a benefactor to his race; and bear of his reform that a London Merchandise Committee can speak of as one "which had opened the blessings of a free correspondence to the teacher of religion, the man of science, all literatare, the merchant and trader, and the whole British nation—especially the poorest and most defenceless portions of it—a measure which is the greatest boon conferred in modern times on all the social interests of the civilized world."

CAPTURES OF REBEL MAIIS.—Our friends of "the Confederacy" and their friends in the North seem to be particularly unhappy just now in the way of "running the blockade" of our lines with their correspondence; several of these little arrangements have lately come to grief through the vigilance of government detectives.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.
"Safe hind, safe find," said old Shylock to his daughter, the fair Jessica, when he went out to the banquet; but what a sad mistake. That very night, in boy's apparel well lined with ducats, she went forth, and abjuring father, home and faith, she threw herself into the arms of a Christian husband—to return to her Jewish home never more. To be sure the locksmith was not to blame, for she escaped through a window—verifying the title saying that "Love laughs at locksmiths." Perhaps if the windows had been barred and bolted she would have remained, but as she was not, debarred in that way, why she bolted.

Postmasters, I have no doubt, generally enjoy this cautionary doctrine on their clerks, where they do not personally superintend the closing of their offices for the night, and the infrequent forcible entries evidence the fact that it is well observed. Even if post office burglaries were so frequent an occurrence there might be an excuse—for the improvements in robber-craft keep pace with the constantly improving mechanical inventions to protect property from their skill and cunning. But if great prudence, and extraordinary care are exercised for the protection of their offices and contents through the silent night, when all the world should be sleeping, there is quite as much carelessness and lack of circumspection manifested during the day time. In nine cases out of ten where there are back doors leading into streets, yards or alleys, they will be found open, and loose mail matter, a very tempting bait, so scattered about, that any one disposed could help himself unheeded and unseen. He who cannot understand this at a glance, will not understand it with volumes of explanations. I do not wish to convey the idea that there is no honesty existing in such localities—far from it—but there is a class of people who steal from impulse, or when temptation and the opportunity are too powerful for the weak struggles, and the still small voice of an elastic conscience, and these are the ones to be dreaded and guarded against.

I don't believe if these negligent officials were proprietors of banking houses, they would be so careless as to permit such examples of entrance and exit to exist, particularly when their loose change could be "gobbled up" without the least danger or trouble; and if they don't conscientiously feel that letters are of quite as much importance as filthy lucre, they are unfit and unsafe guardians of the trusts confided to their keeping.

Now, some indignant gentleman will possibly say, what in the name of all that is impertinent is this old fellow doing about back doors? Can't he find food enough for his hungry propensities, without clambering over area fences and groping through blind alleys? I have only to say in reply, in my usual calm manner, for I never get angry, feeling a rush of blood somewhere, that I could give a reason for everything I do, but in these days of strategy, flank movements are popular, and approaches from the rear effective. It is not necessary however to scale fences, or to indulge in any other gymnastic exercise to discover these eligible openings for enterprising rascals, as they are invariably of easy approach from the outer world.

In these troublous times, postmasters should understand the propriety of guarding both front and rear, for surprises usually come from the latter quarter, and commanders thus taken at a disadvantage not un frequently come to grief.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

INTERCEPTING CORRESPONDENCE.

We have, on more than one occasion, been asked by postmasters whether there are any circumstances in which it would be proper for them to deliver to a person, having no authority to receive them, letters addressed to another. The cases of a husband desiring, for good reason, to stop letters to or from his wife, and *vice versa*; of a father wishing to obtain possession of the objectionable correspondence of his son or daughter; a public officer anxious to procure evidence against a criminal by an inspection of his letters; these and other cases have been referred to us, and our opinion asked as to the duties of postmasters under such circumstances.

It would perhaps be a sufficient answer to all questions on this subject to say that the laws forbidding under heavy penalties, the taking, opening or embezzling of mail letters, make no exceptions whatever in relation to such letters. Nothing in their supposed character or contents is referred to as justifying any person connected with the post office in detaining them, in violating their seals, or in knowingly delivering them to an unauthorized individual. Under those laws, a postmaster has absolutely no alternative but to faithfully and promptly forward, or deliver to their proper addresses, when possible, all letters entrusted to his official care. To open, delay, or tamper with them in any way, or for any cause, is not an indiscretion nor peccadillo; but a crime, and a serious one. Nor do the Regulations of the Department, which are founded upon, and are a reflex and exposition of the postal laws, anywhere confer a wider discretion with regard to this point. The persons entitled

to receive letters are those whose names are in the address," is the plain language of the Department's instruction; and the directions which follow it, that "letters addressed to fictitious persons or firms, or to no particular person or firm, are to be returned at the end of each month to the Dead Letter Office," do not imply any permission to a postmaster to dispose of even this exceptional class of letters in any other manner.

Doubtless there are many cases in which the interception of correspondence entrusted to the mails, could it be permitted, might prove to be of great public and private benefit; but in the eye of the law, the rights of all persons in this matter are equal, and no presumption as to the object or contents of a letter can justify its detention, abstraction or opening, so long as it remains in the custody of the post office. Were the case otherwise, the good which might sometimes accrue would be more than counterbalanced by the loss of the confidence which the people now so justly repose in the security and inviolability of the mails, so far as those results can be attained by the protection which the law affords; and a wide door would thereby be opened for fraud and injustice.

There are many ways in which the post office can be, and is, used for the detection of crime, the reclamation of erring children, and similar purposes, without violation of law or dereliction from official duty; and all that a postmaster can legitimately do to aid, in the exercise of his office, in a work of benevolence or justice, should be done; but too much care cannot be taken, in so doing, to avoid overstepping the boundary which divides official duty from official crime, or being made the tool of designing persons.

The question as to the claim of one person to the correspondence of another, after it has been rightfully delivered from, and is consequently beyond the control of, the post office, is one to be settled either by state laws, or by the parties interested, and means can doubtless be found, in such cases, by those who consider themselves entitled, by law or natural right, to letters directed to others, to obtain possession of them without seeking to violate the sanctity of the mails.

A parent, too, may reasonably be presumed to be authorized to receive letters addressed to a minor child, or a wife or husband to receive each others' correspondence, and in most cases this assumption is correct; but where the contrary is known, we can see no other course for a postmaster to pursue, than to conform strictly to the letter of the law, however desirable it may seem to be to do otherwise, and in no case can he rightfully neglect or refuse to forward a letter properly addressed and regularly deposited in his office. To "do evil that good may come" is no safer rule in a post office than elsewhere.

Rebel Depredations on the Mails.

The Washington Chronicle gives the following account of the destruction by the rebels of the mails for the North, which left Washington on the 11th July:

Marcus K. Hook, and William T. Howell, route agents on the through line between Washington City and New-York, furnish the following particulars of the loss of their train by the Rebels. The train left Washington on Monday at 7:30 a. m. The agents had in charge from the Washington office, mails for Philadelphia, Albany, Boston, New York, Newark, N. J., and Springfield, Mass.

At Baltimore they received the following: Buffalo, N. Y., Nashville, Tenn., Cairo, Ill., Meaville, Penn., four for Cumberland, Md. (both the other roads to this point being cut), Cleveland, Ohio, Chicago, Ill., Columbus, Ohio, Cincinnati, Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Indianapolis, Lexington, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Springfield, Ill., Steubenville, Ohio, St. Joseph, Mo., St. Louis, Mo., Wheeling, W. Va., and Zanesville, Ohio.

The train proceeded on quietly as usual, until, while crossing Gunpowder Bridge, Mr. Hook remarked to Mr. Howell that there was a dense smoke perceptible some distance ahead, and they would probably now meet the Rebels. Passing over safely, about a mile towards Magnolia, the train was fired into by a party which proved to be a band of guerrillas under Gilmor. The train was stopped immediately, but the engineer quickly reversed the engine, leaped off and took to the woods. The fireman soon followed, and the Rebels firing at them as they ran. The brakeman then made his way over the top of the baggage cars and on the engine, when, as he states, he found one hundred and twenty-five pounds of steam on. He stopped the train at that point. Here a Rebel entered the mail-car and demanded money from the agents and others who had, under the excitement, assembled in that car. From the agents no money could be obtained; but the through baggage-masters acceded to their demand, to what extent is not known.

Two officers, afterwards entered the car, inquired for safes; learned there were none. Then for mail bags. Asked for money or public documents. The agents replied that "no money would be sent by mail in these critical times," &c. Then the mail keys were demanded. The agents replied that they had not the keys, when one of the officers took out his knife and remarked: "We have a key to the bags." They then selected the Harrisburg pouch, which they cut, and opened a dozen or two letters, but their gains from this source were only about \$10, which they stole from one letter.

Remembering that "this business was too slow work for them, they lighted a match and set fire to the mail. They were the \$10 stolen from that letter, the hard earned wages of some day-laborer or mechanic to some indigent family? We hope the miserable depredators will apprise the Post-

Office Department at Washington, so that, when the poor family, or, perchance, the sorrow-stricken widow, should apply for her letter the Department may be able, with certainty, to inform her where her money has gone.

These magnanimous officers, however, allowed the route agents to take with them their valises. They asked the baggage-master of the train if he could run an engine. He replied in the negative. The brakeman who went over and stopped the engine was ordered by the Rebels to act as engineer, and under their direction, he put steam on the engine. The train was then fired and forced back on Gunpowder Bridge.

The baggage cars, mail-car and five other cars were thus destroyed. No part of the mail was saved from the flames.

Our two informants passed over the river in a boat, using every exertion to ascertain whether any portion of the mail could be saved, but without success.

They then walked to Stemmer's Run and telegraphed to Mr. Crawford, agent in Baltimore, with a view to obtain a hand-car to bring them to Baltimore, but the hanging operator at that point so transmitted their dispatch that Mr. Crawford could not understand it.

The agents, after their long walk, stopped at the Run all night, and next morning (Tuesday) their letters—how much money in small sums is destroyed—what delay in the arrival of friends, summoned to attend some wounded or sick soldier, has been occasioned, we will not venture to state. The wretchedness, the mischief, the sorrows entailed by a mail-depredator—the creature who would apply the torch to the social correspondence, to that sacred chain of intercourse which can only exist between husband and wife, parents and children—are all beyond the comprehension of human beings. Welcome, a thousand times over, are the rebel raiders to such distinctions.

THE "MORMON STAMPS."—The story in our June No., in relation to the "Mormon Postage Stamps," which we copied from an English paper without vouching for the truth of its statement, is, we are informed on the best authority, pure fiction. It was doubtless, concocted by some enterprising manufacturer of bogus stamps, for the purpose of creating a demand for his wares among the victims of the stamps-collecting mania.

HARD NAMES.—We remember reading some time since an article in an English magazine the writer of which indulged in much merriment in regard to the odd names to be found in the list of American post offices; but we think the following samples from the British Colonial Postal Directory are quite equal to anything in that line on this side of the water, especially since the abolishment of the offensive name of "Small Post," with which a post office in Illinois was for many years afflicted:

Wagyunah,	Humandorp,
Oustaboorn,	Graff Reloest,
Pash,	Yackandouh,
Stettenbosch,	Warraunah,
Vitenage,	Swellendam.

Letter Addresses.

The Geneva Courier says: It is not generally understood why so many letters find their way every year to the Dead Letter Office, but the following directions which we have copied from letters mailed at the Post Office in Geneva, will explain to a considerable extent why they miss their proper destination. The directions on these letters were just as they are printed below, only the writing corresponding with the spelling and the way the words were put on the letters.

belone
Mr. Saesg
ne bar
wan
e. o.—Bologna
Sansse Maker, Newark, Wayne Co.
genia's
brig.—Cayuga Bridge.
Gelpstan
Stewbin County.—Gibson, Stenben County.
Mr. Slattassunapost
officinariorocuity.—Mr. Slatts, Seneca Post Office, Ontario County.
forthattun gellersin
Co
west Cunsin.—Fort Atchinson,
Jefferson County, Wisconsin.
Amrys
Sha Mounge Contis.—Elmira, Chemung County.
neuleans lensenia
banxes CorPas.—New Orleans,
Banks' Corps.
Coock Socia.—Cossackie.
Cox rockey,
Leyevance weyne Co.—Lyons, Wayne Co.
Midlesscekes.—Middlesex.

CAFE COD.
Know ye the spot, either sand or sod,
North side or South of Old Cape Cod—
Where dwells in toil or luxury rife,
A Lady—Mr. McKennon's Wife;
If so, speed me on to that very place,
That there I may and my wild goose chase;
Please keep it a going until it reaches its place
of destination.
The letter was addressed to Mrs. Alexander McKennon, Cape Cod.

To Forestville, go find your way
To J. H. Rockwell without delay.
In Connecticut State you'll find the spot,
The last I heard from him he was making lamp tops.

Now send me along at a furious rate,
To the Southern part of the Sucker State,
In the office at Centralia to rest I desire,
Till Miss Josephine Harris for me shall enquire.

In the County of Pulaski, at present there doth dwell
A gentleman whose name o're this is known to all
full well,
Within the City of Little Rock Col. Josiah Snow is
located.
He, I postman, with this letter run for I have
forgot to date it.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK.
J. OATLEY, Editor.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in reading foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

Changes in Foreign Postages.

Important changes will be found this month in our Table of Foreign Postages, which has been altered to conform to the order published below, which establishes ten cents per half ounce as the uniform rate of letter postage to foreign countries with which no postal treaties or arrangements have been concluded. The rates on printed matter to such places are also fixed at 2 cents each for newspapers and 2 cents per 4 oz. for pamphlets, periodicals, &c.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS—Hereafter, each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail will bear a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding issue of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward their subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whose this number reaches marked 47, or a lower number, will please remit at once.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them at as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official

Official.

The following instructions have been issued by the Department to the postmasters at Distributing Post Offices, for their guidance in regard to the provisions of the Act of July 1, 1864:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 23, 1864.

SIR,—A law has just passed abolishing commissions of postmasters, and providing fixed compensation.

For the purpose, therefore, of simplifying accounts, saving labor in post offices and in this department, and at the same time expediting the making up of mails, you are hereby directed to post bill the mails in the manner following:

For all offices not distributing offices, you will enter on the post bill and sheets of mails sent, in the unpaid column, what postage may appear to be due. Omit entries in all other columns.

If it is found that there are no letters or packets bearing unpaid charges for any given office, omit the post bill altogether, keeping no account, in such case, on sheets of mail sent. For distributing offices, if for delivery, observe the directions given above; if for distribution, omit the post bill altogether, keeping no account on sheets of mail sent. You will observe that the usual entries on the sheets of mail sent, in the column of "whole numbers of letters sent," are also to be omitted.

In the case of registered letters originally mailed at your office, you will enter in the proper column the fee required by law, preserving, as now, the full address of letters, with their registered numbers on the letter and return bills and sheets of mails sent, but omit entering the prepaid postage; and in case of registered letters received for distribution or delivery, omit entering either fees or prepaid postage, preserving, however, as in the other case, the full address of the letters, with their registered numbers on the letter and return bill and other records, as the case may be.

In copying the post bills from all other offices accompanying mails for delivery, you will transcribe only the entries in the unpaid column of the post bill on the sheets of mails received for delivery as usual. Omit copying the contents of all post bills received for distribution; also the post bills for delivery upon which there appear no entries in the unpaid column, and file them away for reference.

Sec. 254 of the Regulations of 1859 is hereby so modified as to require originals of accounts of mails sent and received to be sent to the department instead of transcripts. Transcribing may be dis-

continued, and copies kept in the post office by means of a press.

At the close of each quarter you will forward to this Department, as usual, all post bills with your quarterly returns.

These changes are not designed to affect the usual entries on the sheets of mails received for delivery, in the columns of "Over-charges," "Under-charges," &c., and Dead Letters received from the Department. Neither are they intended to affect the usual records of mails to and from foreign countries, sent from or received at the U. S. exchanging offices. Such records will be made out and forwarded to the Department in the same manner as heretofore, until further advised.

A new form of account current, post bills, and other blanks, in place of those now in use, will be furnished you as soon as possible, together with additional instructions in regard to the other accounts composing your quarterly returns. In the mean time the present blanks will be used as above directed.

The forms of sheets for records of postages accruing on newspapers and periodicals received for delivery to regular subscribers, and for postages collected on transient, irregular, and miscellaneous matter, are also retained for the present, and the entries of postages collected in money you will make as usual; but entries of postages prepaid by stamps on such matter you will omit.

You are requested to put these changes into operation without delay.

One of the accompanying circulars has been sent to each post office to which you mail direct.

In the contemplated reforms to follow this partial improvement, your fullest co-operation is expected.

Very respectfully,
M. BLAIR,
Postmaster Gen.

To postmasters at offices which are not Distributing Post Offices, the following instructions have been issued:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
July 11, 1864.

SIR: You are hereby advised that a law has just been passed abolishing the payment of commissions to Postmasters, and providing fixed compensation in lieu thereof. For the purpose, therefore, of simplifying the accounts in post offices, and saving labor therein and in this Department, you will be required to observe the following instructions:

All letters deposited in your office for other offices you will post bill under two heads only—"Paid by Stamps," and "Unpaid." On the sheets of "Mails Sent" you will make corresponding entries.

The spirit and intent of the postal laws, in one regard, is to compel prepayment of postage on letters by postage stamps, except in certain specified cases, and the laws and regulations of the Department prohibit the receiving of money in payment thereof. You are therefore required to order from the Department a sufficient supply of stamps and of stamped envelopes for a quarter; and if for any reason you should fail to do so, you must purchase the same from a neighboring postmaster. The receiving of money for postage on letters sent involves special entries in the accounts; and being a violation of previous instructions from this Department on the subject, your attention is especially called to the duty of keeping on hand, at all times, a full supply of stamps and stamped envelopes. Neglect of this important duty will be considered highly reprehensible.

In the new blanks to be furnished under the operation of the new law, no provision will be made for prepayment in money on letters sent.

In copying post bills received from other offices on the sheets of mails received for delivery, you will enter, in the Unpaid column, what postage may appear to be due in the corresponding column of the bills. Omit copying the contents of all other columns of the bills; and if a post bill appears to have no entry of unpaid postages thereon, omit it altogether, and file it away for reference.

At the close of the quarter you will forward the post bills as usual with your quarterly returns.

A new form of post bill, and other blanks in place of those now used, will be furnished you as soon as possible, together with additional instructions. In the meantime, the present blanks will be used as above directed.

The various distributing offices which mail to your office direct, have been instructed to omit all entries on post bills of letters for your office, excepting those on which unpaid postage is due; and in case, in any given mail, there appear no letters or packets unpaid or partly unpaid, to omit sending a post bill altogether.

These instructions are not intended for the present to affect the method of mailing, forwarding, and recording registered letters sent or received in your office.

The entries of "Overcharges, &c.," "Under-charges," and "Dead letters received from the Department," must be made as usual.

The forms of sheets for records of postages accruing on newspapers and periodicals for delivery to regular subscribers, and for postages collected on transient, irregular, and miscellaneous matter, are also retained for the present; and the entries of postages collected in money you will make as usual.

Until it can be finally arranged to fix the compensation of postmasters, under the new law, upon a just basis, it is designed to continue the present method of post-billing mails (except in the case of distributing offices, which have already received their instructions) for a time, subject to the modifications stated above, for the purpose of ascertaining commissions, &c., as now. When a fair adjustment is reached in your case, you will be at once notified, and new instructions sent you.

As the Department is in possession of full information as to compensation of postmasters from commissions and other sources, no communication in relation thereto can be answered, in view of the great amount of labor which this adjustment will necessarily require.

[The above paragraph, although apparently at variance with the order published below, requiring returns to be made of emoluments of post offices for the past two years, must not be construed by postmasters as obviating the necessity of obeying that order. The returns therein called for should be made promptly.]

A thorough reorganization and simplification of the workings of the service for the public good is contemplated. What these changes are you will be notified. During their progress, and thereafter, your fullest co-operation is expected.

Very respectfully,
M. BLAIR,
Postmaster Gen.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
APPOINTMENT OFFICE, July 11, 1864.

To enable the Postmaster General to classify the offices and fix the salaries of postmasters under the law of July 1, 1864, it is necessary, and you are

hereby required, to make immediate return to this office of your emolument account (box rents, &c.) for the two years preceding July 1, 1864.

Very respectfully,
A. W. RANDALL,
First Assistant Postmaster Gen.

Postage to the British West Indies, Cuba, Aspinwall, Panama, &c.

We are requested to state that hereafter the United States postage charge, without regard to distance, on letters addressed to or received from the British West Indies, Cuba, Aspinwall, Panama, or any other foreign place or country to and from which different rates of postage have not been established by international postal convention or arrangement, will be 10 cents the single rate of half an ounce or under, which must be prepaid on letters sent, and collected on letters received. Also, that the United States postage charge on newspapers and other printed matter sent to or received from the countries and places referred to, will, in future, be as follows, viz: Two cents each on newspapers, and the established domestic rates on pamphlets, periodicals, and other articles of printed matter; which must, in like manner, be prepaid on matter sent, and collected on matter received.

Postage between the United States and the Province of New Brunswick.

We are requested to state that in future the international postage charge upon all letters passing between the Province of New Brunswick and any part of the United States, without regard to distance or route of conveyance, will be 10 cents the single rate of half ounce or under, prepayment optional.

Instructions under the New Law.

The Department has caused to be printed, and will shortly issue to all postmasters, copies of the "Act to Establish Salaries of Postmasters and for other Purposes," approved July 1, 1864.

In the copy of this act published in our last, the 13th section should have been omitted, as it was stricken out before the passage of the bill. With this exception, the law, as there printed, is correct. We do not think it necessary to publish the new instructions entire, but below we furnish a synopsis of the more important ones. They will shortly be in the hands of all postmasters entire. The instructions which follow are numbered to correspond with the sections of the law to which they refer:

1. The basis on which salaries will be adjusted is the aggregate compensation of postmasters as derived from commissions, box rents, or other sources. Thus, under the first adjustment, the salaries will be made equal, as nearly as may be, to the compensation heretofore received.

2. This section contemplates increasing salaries of postmasters in proportion to the increase of their business; also, a reduction of salaries where there is a diminution of the business.

3. Postmasters at offices of the first, second and third classes will be specially notified, before September 30, of the salaries allowed them respectively, from July 1.

Those of the fourth and fifth classes will receive commissions as heretofore, and render accounts accordingly, for the quarter ending September 30, 1864. Their salaries will begin October 1.

5. The forms of accounts will be greatly simplified, and so much labor dispensed with, that the allowances for clerks under this section will be graduated below the present amount; and postmasters will report what reductions, in this respect, may be made. Only unpaid letters will enter into the accounts.

New forms will be furnished as soon as they can be prepared, with instructions as to their use.

6. Distributing and separating offices will be designated by the Postmaster General, and the allowance for extra service fixed as the exigencies of the service may require.

7. Under the law of March 3, 1863, box rents in all post offices must be paid for at least one quarter in advance. Receipts and emoluments from this and all other sources are hereafter to be accounted for as a part of the postal revenues, and forms of accounts will be prescribed accordingly.

8. This section establishes uniform rates of United States postage, without regard to distance, upon all letters, &c., addressed to foreign countries with which postal treaties or arrangements have not been concluded. Heretofore the United States postage on letters addressed to such countries has varied in amount, according to distance; ten cents the single rate having been charged for distances not exceeding 2,500 miles, and twenty cents the single rate for any distance over 2,500 miles; but in future the United States postage is to be levied and collected at the office of mailing or delivery, at uniform rates, as follows:

Ten cents per single rate of half ounce on letters.

Two cents each on newspapers; and the established domestic rates on pamphlets, periodicals, and other kinds of printed matter.

These rates, do not of course, apply to the correspondence exchanged with foreign countries under existing international postal arrangements.

9. This section is specially designed to encourage parties to purchase postage stamps and stamped envelopes as articles of trade, to be resold, and thus relieve post offices of the labor connected with making sales in small quantities.

Postmasters will accordingly sell postage stamps in quantities not less than one hundred dollars in value, and stamped envelopes in packages containing not less than five hundred envelopes, at a discount of five per cent. from the face value of stamps and from the current prices of envelopes, including the stamps.

In order to obtain credit for the discount thus allowed, a voucher must be procured in each case, signed by the purchaser and the postmaster, showing the original value of the stamps and envelopes of each denomination, the amount deducted, and the actual amount paid for them.

Postmasters will report monthly to the Third Assistant Postmaster General the amount of such sales.

10. The law of March 3, 1863, here referred to,

is one of great importance, as it enables writers of letters which may remain unclaimed to receive them back again without going through the dead letter office. Particular attention is called to the instructions published on this subject in July, 1864, May, 1861, and with section 28 of act of March 3, 1863.

The present law imposes a penalty of ten dollars on any person who refuses to pay the postage on a letter returned to him at his own request, and postmasters are directed to enforce this provision against all persons who may persist in such a refusal.

13. DEAD-LETTER BILLS are to be made out according to the directions on page 6 of Instructions published with act of March 3, 1863, so far as those directions apply to unpaid domestic and foreign letters, return letters, rates, and advertised letters; but no entry whatever is required of prepaid letters not advertised in a newspaper.

In order to remedy the inconvenience that frequently arises from the loss or miscarriage of weekly and monthly dead-letter bills, there must be carefully attached to each account current at the end of the quarter, a proper dead-letter bill, showing the whole number of unpaid domestic and foreign letters and return letters, with their respective rates, and the number of other letters advertised in newspapers, sent to the dead-letter office during the quarter. This bill is to be prepared from the duplicates which postmasters must keep of the bills sent during the quarter to the dead-letter office, and must be verified by the postmaster's affidavit.

14. Letter-carriers will be appointed and their salaries fixed by the Postmaster General as heretofore.

Where letter-carriers are already appointed, their duty is to deliver all letters concerning which there is no positive direction to the contrary.

It is the special duty of postmasters to provide that all letters are regularly, frequently, and promptly delivered by the carriers, so that citizens may have no excuse for clinging to the old custom of calling at the post office. The purpose of the law, providing for a free delivery of letters at the houses of owners, is to promote the public convenience and at the same time reduce the labor in post offices. Postmasters will especially discourage the use of private boxes, and steadily aim at reducing them to the lowest number possible.

In order to facilitate the carrier's work, citizens must be induced to provide letter-boxes at their houses or places of business.

Where carriers are not yet employed, postmasters should immediately recommend one or more for appointment—selecting only young, vigorous and reliable men, in whom the people may fully confide.

N.B.—Instead of the enumeration of letters, required by sections 46 and 68 of the Regulations of 1859, each postmaster will in future carefully count the whole number of letters received for delivery during the last week of each quarter, and note the same conspicuously on the margin of the account current. When new blanks are prepared, a special place will be provided for this purpose.

From such reports the whole number of letters during the quarter will be estimated.

Box Rents, &c.

It will be observed that in adjusting the salaries of postmasters under the new law, the Postmaster General will take as a basis the average compensation of each postmaster for the past two years, "as derived from commissions, box rents, or other sources." By this method of adjustment, it will be seen that postmasters, although obliged to return to the Department as part of the revenues of the office, their receipts from box rents, will not, (as some of them who have written to us on the subject seem to suppose) be deprived of the income derived from that source, as the amount of the box rents collected by them during the past two years will be considered as having formed a portion of their compensation during that time, and their salaries fixed at a sum which will include the income from box rents.

It must not be forgotten, either, that by section 2 of the new law the Postmaster General is required to review, once in two years, (and in special cases as much oftener as he may deem expedient,) the salary which may first be assigned to any office; and this is to be done upon the same basis which originally determined the amount of such salary. If, during that time, the business of any office—including the receipts from box rents—shall have increased, a proportionate increase of salary will be allowed.

Several postmasters have written to us since the publication of the law, inquiring whether it is the intention of the Department to compensate them for the outlay which they have made from their private funds in fitting up boxes in their offices. We are authorized to say that no such compensation will be made; and we think a little reflection and some figuring will show that, of course, as an investment, from which they expect to derive a certain income. If that income were entirely cut off by the law, it would perhaps be but fair that they should be reimbursed by the Department for their outlay of capital; but as they will continue to receive it—though in a different form—we do not see how the Department can justly be asked to refund the principal of the investment, and ensure a continuation of the profits of it at the same time.

Instruction No. 5, published in another column, explains that the intention of the new law is to provide for a free delivery in towns and cities where it may be found expedient to establish the carrier system, and that postmasters in such places are not expected to discourage as much as possible the use of boxes.

* Sec. 14, as published in July number of the Mail.

† Sec. 15, as published in July number of the Mail.

C. F. MACDONALD, Esq., who for some years past has occupied the position of Chief Clerk of the Finance Office, Post Office Department, has recently been appointed to the important and responsible post of Superintendent of the Money Order Bureau of the Department. Mr. Macdonald is well qualified for the arduous duties which thereby devolve upon him, and under his management we hope to see the money order system soon in successful operation. B. F. WILKINS, Esq., also formerly of the Finance Office, is appointed chief clerk in Mr. Macdonald's new department, and Wm. M. INELAND, Esq., late secretary of the Philadelphia Post Office, now fills the position recently held by Mr. MACDONALD. All of these gentlemen have given evidence, by their acceptable performance of the duties of the posts they have relinquished, that their promotion is well deserved, and will prove advantageous to the service.

Carrying Letters out of the Mail.
In the May number of this paper appeared the following paragraph:

CARRYING LETTERS GRATIS.—It should be remembered that the law forbidding the carrying of letters by express companies, &c. (unless enclosed in government stamped envelopes), only applies to such letters as are carried for hire or compensation; and those of our correspondents who inquire whether an individual "has a right to carry letters for other persons to another post office," will understand that there is no law to prevent such an act, provided it be done without compensation.

We regret to learn that the above article has been wrongfully construed by some express companies as authorizing them to carry orders not enclosed in government envelopes, without pay; and the omission of an important exception which should have appeared in the paragraph, seems to justify such a construction. By the 11th section of the act of 1845, authority is given to carry letters or packets by "private hands, no compensation being tendered or received therefor in any way, or by a special messenger employed for the single particular occasion"; but there is nothing in this section, or any other section of the post office laws, which can be so construed as to authorize express companies or any other class of persons, performing regular and stated trips over a mail route, to carry letters outside the mail, unless enclosed in prepaid postage stamped envelopes, as authorized by the 8th section of the act approved August 31, 1852.

The act approved March 3, 1845, forbids the conveyance out of the mail by private expresses making stated or regular trips from one place to another, between which the United States mail is transported, of any "mailable matter" whatever, except newspapers for sale or distribution to subscribers, and except, also, pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals, when not marked or directed, nor intended for immediate distribution to subscribers or others, but intended for sale as merchandise, and sent or consigned to some bona fide dealer or agent for the sale thereof; and subjects every person thus offending, or aiding and assisting therein, to a penalty of \$150 for each offence.

It subjects the owners of any vehicle or vessel by which, with the knowledge or connivance of the owner, driver, conductor, or person having charge thereof, is conveyed any person acting as a private express, and actually in possession of forbidden "mailable matter," to a penalty of \$150 for each offence.

It subjects the owner of any vehicle or vessel making stated trips, and conveying as aforesaid any forbidden mailable matter, otherwise than in the mail, to a fine of \$100, and the driver, conductor, captain, or other person in charge, to a fine of \$50 for each offence. It permits the conveyance by such vehicle or vessel, out of the mail, of letters or other mailable matter relating to accompanying cargo or freight; but orders for goods, whether sealed or unsealed, are not embraced in such permission.

It subjects all persons whatsoever, who shall send, or cause to be sent, by private express or other unlawful means, any forbidden mailable matter, to a penalty of \$50 for each offence.

See regulations of the Department, chap. 38, edition of 1859.

By authority of an act of Congress, approved August 31, 1852, letters enclosed in stamped envelopes furnished by the Department, may be lawfully carried by private expresses or otherwise, out of the mails; but letters prepaid by stamps cannot be so carried.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL.—I wish to ask you a question for my own information, and some others at this place. A letter is now in this office with a "Due 6 cents" on it; it has already one cent stamp on it; the letter weighs over the half ounce to be sure. Now, why is there "due 6 cts." on this, and only 3 cts. on some others, that come like it. Will you answer through your next Mail and oblige us.

Very truly yours,
C. M. M., P. M.

Instruction No. 26, explanatory of sec. 26, Act of March 3, 1863, says: "If postage is partly prepaid, the unpaid postage will be charged at double rates." The law says—"Double the prepaid rates shall be charged and collected on a letter." The absence of "due 6 cts." on a letter weighing over the half ounce, and under one ounce, arriving at its destination with but one stamp, is proof of neglect at the mailing office, but the amount due must still be collected at the office of delivery.

Economy is Wealth.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL.—The above is old but nevertheless true. The items in the U. S. Mail of June and July in regard to the use of wrapping paper in the offices of Putnam, Thompson, and Stonington, Conn., are worthy of more than passing notice. At this time when everything is held at exorbitant prices, it is truly refreshing to know there are some men even in government employ, who exhibit a desire to curtail expenses. It would be well for some postmasters in larger offices to initiate the example of the P. M.'s above mentioned. Postmasters in large offices by

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. IV., No. 12.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1864.

WHOLE No. 48.

What Rowland Hill has Done.

The following statement, published by Sir Rowland Hill on his recent resignation of the Secretaryship of the English Post Office, is interesting and important, as showing the results of the cheap postage reform inaugurated by him. It was first circulated privately:

RESULTS OF POSTAL REFORM.

"Before stating the results of postal reform, it may be convenient that I should briefly enumerate the more important organic improvements effected. They are as follows:

"1. A very large reduction in the rates of postage on all correspondence, whether inland, foreign, or colonial. As instances in point, it may be stated that letters are now conveyed from any part of the United Kingdom to any other part—even from the Channel Islands to the Shetland Isles—at one-fourth of the charge previously levied on letters passing between post towns only a few miles apart; and that the rate formerly charged for this slight distance, viz. fourpence—now suffices to carry a letter from any part of the United Kingdom to any part of France, Algeria included.

"2. The adoption of charge by weight, which, by abolishing the charge for mere enclosures, in effect largely extended the reduction of rates.

"3. Arrangements which have led to the almost universal resort to preparation of correspondence, and that by means of stamps.

"4. The simplification of the mechanism and accounts of the Department generally by the above and other means.

"5. The establishment of the book-post (including in its operation all printed and much MS. matter) at very low rates, and its modified extension to our colonies and to many foreign countries.

"6. Increased security in the transmission of valuable letters afforded, and temptation to the letter-carriers and others greatly diminished, by reducing the registration fee from 1s. to 4d., by making registration of letters containing coin compulsory, and by other means.

"7. A reduction to about one-third in the cost—including postage—of money-orders, combined with a great extension and improvement of the system.

"8. More frequent and more rapid communication between the metropolis and the larger provincial towns, as also between one provincial town and another.

"9. A vast extension of the rural distribution—many thousands of places, and probably some millions of inhabitants, having, for the first time, been included within the postal system.

"10. A great extension of free deliveries. Before the adoption of penny postage many considerable towns, and portions of nearly all the larger towns, had either no delivery at all, or deliveries on condition of a extra charge.

"11. Greatly increased facilities afforded for the transmission of foreign and colonial correspondence, by improved treaties with foreign countries, by a better arrangement of the packet service, by sorting on board, and other means.

"12. A more prompt despatch of letters when posted, and a more prompt delivery on arrival.

"13. The division of London and its suburbs into ten postal districts, by which, and other measures, communication within the twelve-mile circle has been greatly facilitated, and the most important delivery of the day has, generally speaking, been accelerated as much as two hours.

"14. Concurrently with these improvements, the condition of the employees has been materially improved; their labors, especially on the Sunday, having been very generally reduced, their salaries increased, their chances of promotion augmented, and other important advantages afforded them.

RESULTS.

"My pamphlet on 'Post-Office Reform' was written in the year 1836. During the preceding twenty years, viz. from 1815 to 1835 inclusive, there was no increase whatever in the Post Office revenue, whether gross or net, and therefore, in the number of letters; and though there was a slight increase in the revenue, and doubtless in the number of letters, between 1835 and the establishment of penny postage early in 1840—an increase chiefly due, in my opinion, to the adoption of part of my plan viz. the establishment of day mails to and from London—yet, during the whole period of twenty-four years immediately preceding the adoption of penny postage, the revenue, whether gross or net, and the number of letters, were, in effect stationary.

"Contrast with this the rate of increase under the new system, which has been in operation during a period of about equal length. In the first year of penny postage the letters more than doubled; and though since then the increase has, of course, been less rapid, yet it has been so steady that, notwithstanding the vicissitudes of trade, every year, without exception, has shown a considerable advance on the preceding year, and the first year's number is now nearly quadrupled. As regards revenue, there was, of course, at first a large falling off—about a million in gross, and still more in net revenue. Since then, however, the revenue, whether gross or net, has rapidly advanced, till now it even exceeds its former amount, the rate of increase, both of letters and revenue, still remaining undiminished.

"In short, a comparison of the year 1863 with 1833 (the last complete year under the old system) shows that the number of chargeable letters has risen from 76,000,000 to 642,000,000; and that the revenue, at first so much impaired, has not only recovered its original amount, but risen, the gross from £2,346,000 to about £3,870,000, and the net from £1,660,000 to about £1,790,000.

"The expectations I held out before the change were, that eventually, under the operation of my plans, the number of letters would increase fivefold, the gross revenue would be the same as before, while the net revenue would sustain a loss of about £300,000. The preceding statement shows that the letters have increased, not fivefold but nearly eight and a half fold; that the gross revenue, instead of remaining the same, has increased by about £1,500,000; while the net revenue, instead of falling £300,000, has risen more than £100,000.

"While the revenue of the Post Office has thus more than recovered its former amount, the indirect benefit to the general revenue of the

country, arising from the greatly increased facilities afforded to commercial transactions, though incapable of exact estimate, must be very large. Perhaps it is not too much to assume that, all things considered, the vast benefit of cheap, rapid, and extended postal communication has been obtained, even as regards the past, without fiscal loss. For the future, there must be a large and ever-increasing gain.

"The indirect benefit referred to above is partly manifested in the development of the money-order system, under which, since the year 1839, the annual amount transmitted has risen from £313,000 to £16,494,000—that is, fifty-two fold.

"An important collateral benefit of the new system is to be found in the cessation of that contraband conveyance which once prevailed so far that habitual breach of the postal law had become a thing of course.

"It may be added, that the organization thus so greatly improved and extended for postal purposes stands available for other objects, and passing over minor matters, has already been applied with great advantage to the new system of savings banks.

"Lastly, the improvements briefly referred to above, with their commercial, educational, and other benefits, have now been adopted in greater or less degree—and that through the mere force of example—by the whole civilized world.

"I cannot conclude this summary without gratefully acknowledging the cordial co-operation and zealous aid afforded me in the discharge of my arduous duties. I must especially refer to many among the superior officers of the Department—men whose ability would do credit to any service, and whose zeal could not be greater if their object were private instead of public benefit.

"ROWLAND HILL.

"HAMPSHIRE,
Feb. 23rd, 1864."

Timbromanie.

Do not be alarmed, reader, at the high-sounding word we have chosen as a heading to this article; for in these days when a common conjurer must call himself "a wizard," and a traveling circus must denominate itself "hip-pothetron," in order to attract attention, certainly the writer of an article on the Rage for Postage Stamp collecting, will be pardoned for using the French term, and calling it Timbromanie. Comparatively few persons in this country, probably, even those engaged in the enticing pursuit, are aware to what an extent this mania for the acquisition of postage stamps is carried on abroad, especially in England and on the continent; and in the hope of enlightening these, as well as presenting a few facts that may be interesting to the general reader, we produce this article.

As literary representatives of stamp collecting, there have already appeared in Europe, twenty-three different publications, as follows: of descriptive catalogues of stamps, seven have been published in England, three in France, one in Belgium, and one in Holland. Of stamp albums and other kindred works, three in England, two in France, and one in Belgium. Of stamp magazines, three in England, one in Belgium, and one in Saxony. Of the catalogues and albums there is hardly one which has not reached a second or third edition; and the catalogues of Mount Brown, the first published and now acknowledged as "the standard," has even reached a fifth. Of the periodicals, the Stamp Collector's Magazine, commenced in February, 1863, published at Bath, by Stafford, Smith & Smith, who, by the way, are the largest stamp dealers in the world, are the largest stamp dealers in the world, they style themselves "Foreign Stamp Sellers to H. R. H. the Prince of Orange," is the oldest and most important. Le Timbre, Poste de Brussels, and Magazin für Briefmarken-Lammler of Leipzig, are of interest only to continental collectors.

From the fact alone of so many publications of this character having made their appearance, and from the support they have received, may be derived some idea of the extent and prevalence of timbromanie in Europe. The number of different stamps in existence at present is some 2500; ranging in value from the common ones at a penny each, to the rare specimen lately advertised for sale in the London Times, for the sum of twenty guineas. When it is borne in mind that twenty English guineas amount to considerably more than two hundred dollars of our "greenbacks," this last item may perhaps be appreciated. Collections are often advertised and sold at prices varying from £5 to £150, according to the number and condition of the stamps. Says the editor of the Magazine: "Should such an Utopian consummation as a complete collection of postage stamps be ever attained it would be cheap at two hundred guineas."

The maxim that wherever there is a demand there will be a supply, is verified in the case of stamp collecting; stamps that before the mania commenced it was almost impossible to obtain, are now to be had almost for the asking; in fact, there is hardly a stamp in use at the present time in any part of the globe, that cannot be easily procured from the large dealers at a slight advance from its face value. The rare stamps are only those of old issues, "essays," and "proofs," whose value is proportionate to their rarity or good condition. For these, enormous prices are frequently paid. At the beginning of the mania, any stamps were eagerly sought, though having been used, but at present the "immaculates," or those which have never been cancelled, are chiefly desired. As an illustration of how great a business the traffic in stamps has become, we may mention the fact of our having counted in a recent issue of the Stamp Magazine, the advertisements of no less than one hundred and thirty different firms and individuals having stamps for sale; most of these being in England. Also the advertisements themselves of the large dealers; such as 10,000 foreign stamps wanted; lowest price per thousand to be forwarded to—? "250,000 foreign stamps for sale," etc. Thus it would seem that the—sales, learned and illustrious English journals choose to call it—"weakest and most puerile of manias," increases and flourishes, in Europe at least, to a remarkable degree.

In our own country the mania prevails to a considerable extent, though by no means as much as in Europe. Two stamp catalogues only have as yet made their appearance; that of

Kline, issued early in 1863, and that of Sever & Francis, issued a few months later. Kline's catalogue has, however, reached a second edition. Against both of these it is affirmed, we fear with too much reason, that they are unacknowledged transcripts of the original English catalogues. A postage stamp album has also been published by the Appletons. An attempt was made at the beginning of the present year to establish a monthly stamp magazine at New York, but was relinquished from want of support. The number of stamp dealers is as yet quite small, probably not numbering more than twenty at the most, situated in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Montreal and Halifax. These generally import their stamps from the large English dealers, and retail them to private collectors. We may here remark that, as a natural consequence, stamps sell for higher prices here than abroad.

Thus even in America, where stamp collecting is yet in its infancy, it has already attained some recognition, obtained some followers, and attracted some notice and attention. Of its opponents, and of the arguments that are shown in its favor, we have nothing to say. It may be a "weak and puerile mania," and again it may not. Every one to his own opinion. Be the fact as it may, this article is produced in the simple hope of its being interesting to all who have any interest in stamp collecting; both to the dignified opposer of timbromanie, who, perchance may sneer in derision as he reads of any one's appropriating twenty guineas for a single postage stamp, and to the initiated follower of the alluring pursuit, who, doubtless, may envy in secret the possessor of so rare a "specimen."

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

The nature of the labor that I have imposed upon myself is such, that while striving to do good to the large family of post office officials, I am certain to come in for a deal of censure for my apparently unnecessary gratuitous meddling. Yet I know that I am doing good. The foolish and fruitless task of trying to fill a sieve with water is not mine. I could lay my finger on several offices where neglect, indolence, ignorance, and slatternliness have vanished before the influence of neatness, intelligence, dignity, diligence, and industry. I do not claim any credit for this, nor do I desire it. Many of these reformed gentlemen disliked to meddle with or overturn old customs, no matter how obsolete or objectionable they were, and preferred rather to bear the ills handed down to them than originate or adopt anything in keeping with the progress of the age; but a short walk in my rally gallery effectually cured the obliquity of vision with which they were afflicted, and they were enabled to see clearly the path of duty, and follow it.

I do not want to be regarded as a cynic, or even as a choleric old gentleman. The weight of nearly half a century is on my shoulders, but I do not bend. The snows of nearly fifty winters have fallen on my head, but there is not a white hair on it. Rheumatism and gout I only know of by reading about them, and my general health is most excellent. And all this is attributable, I am confident, to regular habits, and a remarkably mild and even course. Only once in my life can I remember when I felt my anger rising—that was at the house of a lady friend I was visiting. An interesting young mother desired me to handle her infant on my knee for a few moments while she was engaged at something else. I did, and my yellow teeth sighed for a change; but twenty long miles lay between them and my wardrobe; so I betook me to the woodland wild to calm my perturbed spirit, and get the benefit of the air. I have never been angry since.

But if I do not let my angry passions rise, I nevertheless have my moments of vexation, and can then say as harsh things as if I were out of temper. For instance, it annoys me excessively to see postmasters or their clerks summoned by their acquaintance when engaged in opening a mail. It may or may not be in accordance with the postal laws; but it is, in my estimation, highly improper. On one or two occasions, business required that I should call upon the postmaster in his office. When I made the attempt to go inside I was met with the rebuke, "You mustn't come in here! Don't you know no one is allowed inside?" Yet, in a few minutes thereafter, upon the arrival of a mail, the forward ones would go in and stand around the table, so as to render it difficult to tell who belonged to the establishment and who did not. I am told this is the custom at a great many offices in the country; but this is only hearsay, and may be incorrect, and perhaps I may never have the means of finding out the truth.

I am not prepared to say that any trouble arises from the delivery of letters to wrong persons; but I have frequently heard individuals make inquiries for letters, not only for themselves and their particular friends, but for every neighbor they had, and this, too, without showing any evidence of authority for so doing. I think it is certainly wrong to hand letters to such persons; and if a letter of mine were thus delivered, I should hold the party in the post-office answerable for it (if I could) in the event of my not receiving it. I certainly think more care should be exercised; and if I had anything to do with these offices, I would impress it upon them so forcibly that it would not be forgotten, serious mistakes must occur in this way, no

matter how good the eyes, ears, and memory of the official may be.

Saundering about a depot lately where a great number of mail pouches are received and transferred from one train to another daily, I observed a new and most desirable improvement in the way of iron tags for mail bags and pouches. On a former occasion I spoke of the impropriety of using paper and other perishable material for this purpose on account of their susceptibility to the influences of wet and damp weather; and it is to be hoped that those who have the management of this species of Uncle Sam's property, will see to it that iron tags are brought into general use. I noticed too, on some of the bags, two tags, iron and leather; and I have no doubt it seriously puzzled the depot man to tell which was the original Jacobs. In his extremity, he piled up imprecation on imprecation upon the careless and shiftless fellow who had given him so much trouble. I was only sorry the party for whom it was intended did not hear it.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

For the United States Mail.

Sights and Scenes in Dixie.

DEAR "MAIL:"

It occurred to your humble correspondent in the life-time of the lamented Mr. Holbrook, to suggest to him that the "Mail," for some reason, seemed to ignore the "great west;" and the reply received is as applicable now as then—that if Postmasters, Special Agents, and others connected with the postal service in the west, would only devote a leisure moment now and then to communicating anything of interest to the "craft" transpiring in their respective localities, there would be no need of complaint on that score.

Possibly, therefore, you may find a stray corner for these rambling notes—for I do not aspire to the honors of a regular and professed correspondent, even though "on the spot"—and others more worthy may follow my example, and do something towards supplying this want.

One bright morning this summer found me en route for the army under Gen. Sherman, and as the mild balmy breeze, blowing over fields of clover and new mown hay, laden with health and perfume, fanned brow and cheek, while the laboring engine carried us swiftly out from the crowded city, I said in my inmost heart with Saxe—

"Bless me, this is glorious riding on a rail."

When you know this was my first really free trip undertaken in eight years of unceasing toil in one of our post-offices, you will readily understand why that which to many others was a tiresome journey, to me brought back the old glow and buoyant feeling of my younger days. How many over-taxed post-office clerks (not in the actual labor they perform, but in its constancy), can appreciate my feelings? Why cannot postmasters at the larger offices, who are always abundantly careful of their own recreation, arrange so as to allow occasionally to a deserving clerk that which but few of them ever deny themselves? By and by I may speak of this more at length.

Swiftly drawn by our fiery steed, through the "dark and bloody ground," (darker and bloodier in these days of rehandred rebellion than when this name was given it,) the sunset found us keeping our way along the banks of the Cumberland, whose waters, neat the sun's alchemy, glowed as "pearly gold." The spires and domes of Nashville, and, crowning all, the Capitol, grand even in its unfinished state, soon greeted us—while from the surrounding hills the grim frowning forts told there was war in the land. As for the city, "distance lends enchantment;" for when you reach it, the narrow ill-paved streets, many scarcely as wide as an alley in other cities, causes me to excrete the notions of its founders too overlooking that great essential of health—free ventilation.

The post office here is in an ill-suited building as could have been found in the city—an old dwelling house; it affords, neither in its size, arrangement of rooms, &c., a tithe of the requisite accommodation for the immense mails of which it is now the centre. Mr. Lindsley is, however, a working officer, and it is surprising how much he accomplishes, in view of the great disadvantage he labors under. He is one of the few P. M.'s at important points who seems to realize the force of that part of the postal regulations which requires something at the postmaster's hands, that his office be not a sinecure. If any of the "first class" officials, in regarding their record for the past, find they have scarcely earned their \$4,000 per annum, let them put a pin here, and, as Captain Cutler would say, "make a note on 't.'" How often have not the brains and hands of some unknown clerk worked out their (official) salvations, while the lucky P. M.'s pocket the emoluments?

Again on the road—this time surely in Dixie. Out past the great burial ground where loyalist and rebel, friend and foe, have laid them down, no more to be awakened till God's Angel shall sound the great reveille of nature—past stately mansions and wide-spreading parks—beautiful still, though the tramp of the war horse has left its impression—on and on until we are thundering through the Stone River battle field, trying

vainly to decipher the inscription on the monument which there commemorates the Nation's dead.—And so through scenes, all interesting as landmarks of the great national struggle for life, until the gentle sunset falls upon us as we pass Wartrace, and thence into the mountains.

In defiance of guerrillas, of whose terrible deeds we had been duly warned, your correspondent would occupy the door of the mail car, for the scenery soon began to assume a grandeur which was worth some risk to see.

The full harvest moon was sailing up the heavens, when at Corran we began to ascend the mountain grade. On either side, towered the giant hills with the rugged cliffs or trees made spectral in the night—while yawning chasms unseasonably reminded one of the favorite chivalric mode of warfare in Dixie, namely, throwing railroad trains off the track. Over all the scene the moon's light fell with that exquisite softness resembling a veil of gossamer, and clothing every object in its beauty. Safely through the tunnel, I watch the different sections—one, two, three—as we sweep round the curves, the great engines with their cloud of sparks sweeping back forming a scene of rare beauty. 'Tis now noon o' the night, and, wrapping myself in my overcoat (for the nights are cool here), I lie down to pleasant dreams, if such can be had in a U. S. M. R. R. car, for our Uncle Sam runs telegraph, saw-mills, railroads and rebels, south of Nashville. Yours, hoping to awaken at the foot of Lookout Mountain.

O. K.

July, 1864.

DREADFUL.—A postmaster sends us the following letter received from a gentleman in want of a "par of repeaters." If our friend sent the weapons we trust be forwarded at the same time a stock of "primers."

CARLETON, KY., May 28, 1864.

Well Sear, I know that My Pen inn had to inform you that I which to know What A Par of Good Colts repeaters 6 inch harri Wod Cost thar and alas I Want to know if you Can send them to Me and also I which to know What it will Cost to Send them to Carribourg.

Well Friend as I do knot know your knam nor acquaint with any Earsen that I Merarly Wright thos Few Lines to you and you can inform Me inn your Letter What they Will Cost and if the Money will Haf to be Sent first.

So I will Com to aclos and I Which you to Wright Son to Me.

To Mr. Postmaster,

Ky."

SINGULAR DISPOSITION OF POST OFFICE FUNDS.—In a volume entitled "Her Majesty's Mails," Mr. Lewins has given an interesting historical and descriptive account of the British Post Office from its earliest institution down to the present day. From it we glean the shameful fact that the pension of £4,700 granted by James the II. out of the Post Office revenues to the Duchess of Cleveland—the most prodigal of his brother's mistresses—is still paid to the Duke of Graton, as her living representative.

SOUND DOCTRINE.—One of our exchanges, in commenting on a complaint received from one of the victims of the bogus lottery swindlers to whom we have often heretofore referred, says that those who send money in accordance with the terms of these rascals, whose programme involves an apparent cheating of the pretended "managers" of pretended lotteries, says that said victims deserve exactly what they receive—nothing; while the originators of the villainous schemes deserve incarceration in the State prison. This arrangement, it seems to us, would be eminently in accordance with "the eternal fitness of things."

Letter Addresses.

To Frederic P. Green, so wise and so great, This letter is directed with care, In Pearl street, New York, No. 93, It will probably find him enthroned in great estate, His throne being made of a chair, He is the young man who "doesn't like hash," And when he feels "dig" nified, always says "trash!"

Uncle Sam—

Please send this letter via Louisville, And oblige a soldier whose name is Bill, Who has a wife in the Hoosier State, Or left one there at any rate; At Princeton, C.H., Gibson county, You'll find her there I'll bet my bounty, Just take it then, the next thing do, Chuck it in box one sixty two, For Mrs. W. B. Kimball, And she for it will duly call.

Mr. Post Master, when you go away, Please take me along to America, When you get there, at Belleville, Illinois, Give me to Frank Dougherty, one of the telegraph boys, Leave me in care of that good old fellow, The Rail Road Agent, Harry W. Miller, Belleville, Illinois.

There is a girl well known to you, Who lives from town a mile or two, One name is Rose and Cleland to her, And Boh you see is her big brother, This letter give to Fales on Monday, Or else to Bob or Johnnie Grundy, Lebanon, Ky.

O'er hill and dale, on rail or wire, Swift about thy right and never tire, To Worth P. O. direct and straight, In Mercer Co., Pennsylvania State, And if my loved one should be there, Miss L. C. Williams, so young and fair, With her you may rest yourself a spell, So go where I bid you, fare thee well, Yours, P. O. Clerk, Kingsville, Ohio.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



AND
POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK.
J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 1864

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions or in reference to the business department of this paper should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR.—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and important publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General,
Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—Hereafter, each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail will bear a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whom this number reaches marked 43, or a lower number, will please remit at once.

Bills for Subscription

To the U. S. Mail will be sent to all whose subscriptions expire with the present number, and to many others whose subscriptions have been unpaid for some time. A prompt remittance of the amount due is requested and expected. In these times it is scarcely necessary to remind anybody of the fact that newspapers can neither be printed for nothing, nor given away. The price of subscription has no yet been advanced, notwithstanding the largely increased cost of every item in our monthly bill of expenses—but that price must be paid to enable us to continue the paper.

Suspension of the Overland Mail

In consequence of the danger attending the transmission of mails via the overland route, by reason of the hostile demonstrations recently made by the various Indian tribes on the plains, it has been decided by the Department to suspend that service for the present, and despatch the mails by steamer. We learn by a despatch from Washington that Mr. Otis, General Superintendent of the Overland Mail route, has reached Washington for the purpose of representing to the officials the condition of affairs on the Plains. The Sioux, Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Keowas are all hostile, and according to the report of friendly Indians they number from five to eight thousand warriors. In addition to the indiscriminate massacre of whites in the most shocking modes, they have destroyed at least \$1,000,000 worth of property, including emigrant trains, and have taken possession of all the branches between Julesburg and Fort Kearney, a distance of two hundred miles, and one hundred and fifty miles this way to the Big Sandy. The wires to the Pacific have been cut, and emigration rendered insecure, excepting in large bodies. Denver and other settlements are at present curtailed in their supplies from the States. The Indians say the country belongs to them, and that they intend to drive out the whites. This seems to be the only argument for their warfare, and in view of this fact, conciliation is at present out of the question. Those who have the best knowledge of all the attendant circumstances are suggesting that General Harney be placed in command of the forces which can easily be rallied under him, to carry on hostilities against the savages.

The Official Oath.

By section 2 of the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1825, it is provided that "all persons employed in the General Post Office, or in the care, custody, or conveyance of the mails, shall previous to entering upon the duties assigned to them, or the execution of their trust, and before they shall be entitled to receive any emolument therefor, respectively take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation before some magistrate, and cause a certificate thereof to be filed in the General Post Office:

"I, A. B., do swear (or affirm, as the case may be), that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from everything forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of the post office and post roads within the United States."

The "duties required" of a postmaster are set forth and defined clearly and with great minuteness, both in the postal laws and the various regulations and instructions which have from time to time been published by the Department—copies of which should be in the possession of every postmaster, and are certainly within the reach of all who do not possess them, on proper application. It is to be feared that too many postmasters are apt to consider that if they abstain from any "outbreaking sin" in the shape of a flagrant and deliberate violation of the postal laws, and attend to the duties of their office about as well and carefully as they happen to find convenient, they are satisfying the demands of their official oath, and are entitled to be considered as good and faithful servants of the Department and the public. They don't knowingly render false accounts; they don't pocket the public funds; they don't steal the letters passing through their offices, nor open them before delivery to pry in their neighbor's business or secrets; they know that all these offences are forbidden by law, and they are too conscientious to commit them if they were not. And yet many a postmaster, scrupulously practising the negative virtue of abstaining from all these unlawful acts, is very far from making his official course conform to the requirements of the oath which he has taken before assuming his office. Ignorance of the duties which he has sworn to "faithfully perform" is inexcusable on the part of any postmaster who has been installed in office a sufficient length of time to enable him by experience, proper application, study and inquiry, to make himself familiar with them; and there is no sufficient apology in the reply which some of them send to remonstrances of Special Agents and others, against their violation of regulations of long standing:—"I was not before aware that such was my duty in the matter." The present Postmaster General, in a letter not long since published in these columns, said: "We can never make the postal service what the American people have a right to expect, until the men engaged in it put their hearts into it." A postmaster who really "puts his heart" into the performance of his duties, will take pains to make himself "aware" of their nature at the earliest possible moment after assuming them—and will not wait until his willful ignorance of them has entailed inconvenience and loss to those with whose correspondence he has been entrusted, before ascertaining what those duties are. And it seems to us that one who does the contrary of this, can hardly clear his skirts of the guilty violation of his oath of office.

To take a case which is, we regret to say, so frequently brought to our notice, that its recent and repeated occurrence suggested this article: The regulations of the Department contain careful and explicit instructions, couched in simple language, as to the proper course to be pursued by postmasters in the registration of letters. A report is made of the failure of one of these letters to arrive at its destination. The writer has complied with all the forms of the law, so far as he is concerned—has given it in charge of a postmaster, taken a receipt, and paid the postage, and a registration fee of twenty cents, for which he justly considers the Department is bound to extend to his letter all the protection which the registry system affords, and that if it should be missing, it can, by means of the facilities of that system, be traced at least to a certain point. And yet, it is actually often the case, that when complaint of the loss of a registered letter is referred to a Special Agent for investigation, the shameful fact is developed that, by the carelessness or inexcusable ignorance of the postmaster of the mailing office, any attempt to trace the missing letter—as a registered letter—is rendered altogether hopeless. Sometimes the only indication of "registration" is to be found in an entry on the registered receipt book—which practically ends the whole matter. The letter has been forwarded to the nearest D. P. O. among ordinary letters (perhaps accompanied by registered letter bill and perhaps not), the postmaster "does not exactly remember" the "return bill" has been carefully sent to the postmaster of the office of final destination—and, as says the faithful and intelligent official to whom it was entrusted by the confiding writer—"we regret that no more information can be given concerning it." Or it has been enclosed in an envelope, addressed to the postmaster at the office of final destination, and as though it were intended to be sent "direct," mailed, with the accompanying bill, to a Distributing post office, where, of course, all trace of it as registered matter is lost. Or in some other of the various ways in which culpable heedlessness can effect that object, the whole registry system, in that particular case, is "knocked into pl," and the payer of the registration fee coolly swindled out of the equivalent he had a right to expect for the money.

Now it seems to us that a postmaster who has sworn to "faithfully perform the duties required of him," and who "performs" them in the manner set forth above, is morally guilty of something which looks very much like "perjury in the second degree" to say the least.

It is not only in regard to registered letters that some postmasters are habitually unmindful

of the postal laws and regulations. Other portions of their duties, quite as important, are neglected, to which we must defer reference until a future time. In the mean time if our remarks should chance to be perused by one who has allowed the memory of the requirements of his official oath to wax dim, we hope they may serve to remind him that a conscientious adherence to those requirements is incompatible with carelessness or willful ignorance of his official duties.

A Noble Inheritance.

Some of our readers may remember an account which we published of the arrest, in December, 1862, of a messenger employed by the Commissioners of Charities and Corrections to convey to Bellevue Hospital, New York city, letters addressed to the sick and wounded soldiers who then occupied that institution. This individual (whose real name was James Tryon, but who had assumed that of Osgood W. Gould) was detected in the act of purloining the letters entrusted to him, and on the day succeeding his arrest committed suicide by taking opium. After his death, a valuable diamond ring, and gold watch and chain, which were taken from him at the time of his arrest, and which were doubtless the fruit of his numerous robberies of the patients at the hospital, were taken possession of by the Public Administrator, according to law, while the sum of about \$500 remained in the hands of the post-office agent who made the arrest. In a few days, a claimant for the property appeared in the person of Mrs. W., a wealthy person residing in ———, Connecticut, to whom letters of administration were issued as next of kin to the deceased. She, through her attorney, received the effects, including the money in the hands of the agent, to whom she promised that she would gladly make restitution to the losers in every case in which it should appear to the agent's satisfaction that money had been abstracted from letters by her brother. On these conditions the money was handed over to her, and steps were at once taken to procure the necessary evidence. Many affidavits were obtained from persons who had mailed money addressed to the soldiers at the hospital, which beyond all reasonable doubt had been abstracted by Tryon. These were all forwarded to Mrs. W.'s attorney, in the expectation that the promise would be fulfilled, and the money restored; but the hope proved vain—the lucky heiress of the letter-thief preferring to keep for her own benefit the windfall which had reached her through her dead brother's crimes—money sent by loving relatives to sick and wounded veterans, to enable them to procure the little delicacies which an invalid's appetite craves, or in some cases to provide them the means of coming home to die. What a sense of satisfaction must accompany the possession of such an heritage! "Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good."—and Tryon little thought that his hoarded pilferings would one day help still further to enrich his already well-to-do relative, and that after all he was, in robbing the soldiers, unconsciously fulfilling the apostolic injunction to "provide for his own household."

Tryon has gone to his last account—self-murdered. She who has profited by his guilty acts lives prosperously, but will one day follow him to the same tribunal. It is presumptuous to speculate whether it shall be "more tolerable in that day" for the heiress than for the suicide?

IMPROVEMENT IN ARMY MAIL FACILITIES.—Col. A. H. MARKLAND, Special Agent of the Department, and also a member of the staff of Lieut. Gen. Grant, has been doing a good work by introducing improvements in, and systematising the forwarding and delivery of army mails, of which he is superintendent. Carelessness and delay in the transmission of letters to and from the different regiments, brigades, &c., have been replaced by a system which secures a careful charge and prompt forwarding of the soldiers' correspondence, and the good effects of which are visible in the marked decrease in the number of reported losses of soldiers' letters—losses which were in most cases due to the heedless manner in which army mail matters were formerly managed by the regimental and other officers who had them in charge, and who too often entrusted the mails to incompetent and unworthy hands. The Colonel has proved himself a useful officer of the Department, and a true friend and benefactor to our soldiers.

SPECIAL AGENT W. L. KELLY, Superintendent of army mails in the Department of the Mississippi, is efficiently performing a similar benevolent mission at the west.

TOBACCO, &c., TO SOLDIERS.—Many inquiries have lately reached us as to the rate of postage on tobacco and other articles, addressed to soldiers—accompanied by statements that some postmasters are in the habit of charging postage thereon at the rate of only 8 cents per four ounces. The only articles which properly pass at that rate to soldiers are articles of clothing, composed of wool, cotton or linen, and not exceeding two pounds in weight. Tobacco cannot be sent at less than letter rates. It is true that some enthusiastic patrons of the weed have been known to declare that it was "board and lodging" to them—but we have never yet heard of its being classed as an article of clothing. Woolen hats can of course be sent at the reduced rates; but boots, knives, pipes,—in short, every article for which a lower rate is not provided by law—are chargeable with letter postage. If mailed.

Should this meet the eye of any person in the habit of taking from the mails and detaining for his own personal copies of this paper addressed to subscribers, we hereby request him to send us his name, in order that we may supply him with a copy gratis, if he cannot afford to subscribe. We regret to be obliged to believe that the practice referred to is quite common; and while it is perhaps flattering to know that the Mail is so powerful a temptation, we cannot willingly allow it to be an instrument of evil. Send us your names, gentlemen, and let the subscribers' papers pass.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Editor U. S. Mail:—I have a case on hand that I would like very much to have your opinion upon. It is this: Letters have been received at this office from a clerk in a D. P. O. to his relatives here, and these letters had each a three-cent stamp, but weighed over one-half ounce, and I charged each letter six cents due. Information of the fact was sent to the writer of the letters, and I received the following:—"Now, Mr. P. M., if you do not refund the amount you collected and do so no more, I will report you to the P. M. General; but if you refund the amount, I will say nothing." Respectfully, A. L. M., P. M.

We hope our Missouri friend does not send us the above because he labors under any anxiety in regard to the threats of the "clerk in a D. O. O." There is not the least cause for alarm, if the facts are as stated, and the law which provides that letters partly pre-paid shall be charged double the amount unpaid, renders any "opinion" from us on the subject superfluous. We publish the letter as a sample of a good many which we receive, and to take occasion to say that so long as a postmaster guides his official action by the postal laws and the regulations and instructions of the Department, it should be a matter of indifference to him whether or not such action meets the disapproval or evokes the threats of "clerks in D. P. O.'s" or of ordinary mortals.

Editor U. S. Mail:—I would inquire if a publisher of a weekly newspaper has a right to send through the mail, free of postage, a package of his publications once a month, or oftener, to his canvassing and collecting agent, who is not a subscriber. By answering the above through your valuable paper, you will oblige, Yours, P. M.

If such a package is deposited in a post office unpaid, it should be forwarded, charged *ad valorem* transient rates. If the person addressed refuses to pay such charge, the package should be disposed of as provided by Sec 121, Regulations of 1859.

Editor U. S. Mail:—The communications of Monsieur Tonson, and many of your answers to correspondents, have proved very profitable to me; but there are some things which I have not as yet seen touched upon, and therefore take the liberty of asking for information upon some of them. Is it the duty of postmasters to deliver letters, with fictitious addresses, to young females or boys, when he is satisfied that it is having an injurious tendency upon the morals of those who receive them—also upon the community? Ought he to inform their parents, and would he have a right to withhold such letters from them at their request, or give them to the parents? Has the postmaster any discretion in the matter? My reason for asking is, that the writing of such letters is carried on to an alarming extent, perverting the minds of the young, and, in several instances, resulting in the ruin of those who have been engaged in it. P. M.

Fictitious letters should be sent to the Dead Letter Office at the end of each month, as provided by Sec. 80, Regulations of 1859, and not delivered to any person.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Will you please tell me through the columns of your paper whether a P. M. must pay the postage on a notice to an editor, when the person addressed refuses to take the paper from the office, or whether he can send it free when the person addressed will not pay the postage? Yours, W. C.

The notice should be addressed to the P. M. of the place where the paper is published.—For Publisher of ——— (naming the paper.) This notice can of course be sent free by a postmaster under his official frank.

POST OFFICE, CHEATAM 4 CORNERS, N. Y.

Editor U. S. Mail:—As some of our large offices are figuring extensively on improvements, I thought I would say to you that I consider I have made an improvement in the mailing line, viz.: I have cut out of cherry wood 140 stamps to stamp wrappers enclosing letters, and find, upon using them, that it not only enabled me to make up a mail at least a third quicker, but also enables the Route Agents to distribute more readily, and facilitates the surety of the package reaching its destination without miscarriage. The 140 stamps answer for nearly 300 post offices, as we are near the line dividing New York and Massachusetts, and obliged to mail direct throughout both States. Any one wishing to procure these stamps may address me at this office. H. MILTON FORB, Deputy Postmaster.

Editor U. S. Mail:—In your July number, you say that "By the postal laws, the offence of selling a U. S. postage stamp or stamped envelope, by postmasters or other persons, for a larger sum than that expressed upon its face, is punishable by a fine of from ten to five hundred dollars." As far as relates to stamped envelopes, I presume the above statement is an error, as the Department always charges postmasters more than is "expressed upon the face." If it is an error, I hope you will make the correction, as, upon the strength of your paragraph I (and I presume others) have been accused of over-charging. Respectfully, A. K. M.

The law forbids the sale of stamps or envelopes for a larger sum than is expressed upon the face, or for a larger sum than is charged therefor by the Department. The charge for the stamp of a stamped envelope is but three cents—the further charge, which forms the balance of the price, is for the envelope. The instructions which are sent with the receipt which accompanies envelopes furnished to postmasters, contain a sufficient answer to any person stupid enough to base an accusation of over-charging upon the paragraph referred to.

A postmaster inquires "whether a mail driver who is habitually behind schedule time in starting with the mail, is justified in leaving without the mail when the postmaster has closed the office to go to dinner." If the mail driver is habitually behind time, in starting, the fact should be reported to the Department—and a postmaster is required by law to have a sworn assistant who shall attend to the business of the office during the absence of the postmaster—which obviates the necessity of closing a post office while the ceremony of dinner is being performed by the latter official.

Deprivation Cases.

SPECIAL AGENT SHARRETT'S on the 16th inst. arrested Albert V. Harlow, a mailing clerk in the Providence, R. I. Post Office, for purloining letters, a number of which were found at his lodgings. He confessed his guilt, and was held to appear before the U. S. Court.

Joseph Bradley, a clerk in the Syracuse N. Y., Office, was arrested on the night of the 17th inst. for stealing letters from the office. His deprivations were quite extensive. Several hundred dollars in money, a large lot of postage stamps, and other property which he had taken from the post office, being found in his possession. He confessed his guilt to Special Agent Sharrett's, and gave such information as will lead to the restoration of the money and property to the right owners. He was held to appear at the U. S. Court.

Romaine D. Tyler, a clerk in the Auburn, N. Y., Post Office, was arrested by Sp. Agt. Sharrett's on the 24th inst. for purloining letters from that office. He acknowledged his guilt, and was held for examination at Syracuse on the 6th of September.

Harlow, Bradley, and Tyler are all young men of the highest respectability, and their bad conduct has caused much grief to their families. Mr. Sharrett's is entitled to great credit for the skillful manner in which he has, within so short a space of time, administered a *quies* to the operations of these three depredaters upon the correspondence of the community.

ARREST FOR OBTAINING LETTERS UNDER FALSE PRETEXTS.—On 18th June, a young man named George Goldsmith was arrested at New Haven, Conn., on the charge of obtaining by fraud and deception, from the post-office at that place, a number of letters addressed to Dr. J. L. Lyon.

While in custody of the officer, he managed to escape, being fired upon twice without effect. He was afterwards delivered up by his father, made a full confession, and was held to bail in \$300. The New Haven Palladium remarks, in connection with this case, that "no censure can justly be laid upon the Post Office authorities for the delivery of the letters to young Goldsmith, since it frequently happens that our business men send as many boys in the course of a week after their mails, as there are days in the week."

CONVICTION.—Frantz Bahr, Mail Carrier, on route from Easton to Hellertown, Pa., who was arrested by Special Agent S. B. Row, in February last, was arraigned at the May term of the U. S. District Court, held at Philadelphia, and was convicted and sentenced to two years in the Eastern Penitentiary.

Bahr was over fifty years of age, and had been in the mail service about eight years.

ARREST AT APPLETON, WIS.—On the 22nd June, Special Agent Van Vechten arrested Lazarus Strong, Assistant P. M. at Appleton Wis., on a charge of mail robbery. Money abstracted from a letter mailed at that office, and which could be identified, was found upon the person of the prisoner, who made a full confession of his guilt, and was committed to jail, to await the action of the Grand Jury.

ECONOMY IN POST OFFICES.—One or two letters which we have published from postmasters, showing a commendable economy in the use of wrapping paper in their offices, have brought us quite a number of similar epistles. From the postmaster of South Hadley, Mass., we have the statement that he has paid over to the Department, during the space of three years and one month, \$2,384; that within that time he has received one ream of wrapping paper and one ball of twine; that he has now on hand one-half ream of paper, and that "by tying strings, the ball of twine is one-half larger than when it was received." He adds that "if any other office the size of this can show as favorable a record, I will pay for the Thanksgiving turkey." All who think they have a claim to the festive bird should address the postmaster mentioned above.

A USEFUL OFFICER.—The number of soldiers' letters passing daily through the New York post-office is about 25,000. Among these a large number are imperfectly addressed, and at an early period of the rebellion it was found necessary to detail a "military clerk" to the duty of taking charge of letters addressed to soldiers, forwarding them to their proper destination, correcting errors in their addresses, &c. Mr. P. A. PARSELLS, who was selected for this task, has performed it with great satisfaction and efficiency. To him thousands of our soldiers are indebted for the receipt of letters which otherwise would never have reached them, for want of proper direction. Mr. P. has adopted a system whereby he is enabled to keep a record of the location of the various armies, and the changes consequent upon their movements, and to forward their letters with despatch, besides correcting many of the errors, and supplying many of the omissions which are found in the addresses, and which would otherwise prevent their delivery. To him is also confided the charge of letters for regiments temporarily quartered in, or passing through the city, as well as for the various military hospitals in the city and vicinity. Our soldiers, who so well appreciate the blessing of a prompt delivery of their letters from home, have not been slow to recognize Mr. Parsells' services, and he has received from many of them letters of thanks for the benefits which his care and vigilance have conferred upon them.

LITERARY POST OFFICIALS.—Anthony Trollope, the author of "Dr. Thorne," "The Small House at Allington," and numerous other well-known works of fiction, holds the position of "Surveyor" in the English Post Office Department, an office similar to that of "Special Agent" of the U. S. Department. Mr. Edmund Yates, (whose squabble with Thackeray concerning some published remarks on the latter's "dear old nose" may be remembered, and Mr. Sandmore both writers of distinction, also hold high official posts in the same establishment.

UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. V., No. 1.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1864.

WHOLE No. 49.

(For the U. S. Mail.)

"When the Battle is Won." (THE SOLDIER'S LAST LETTER.)

O mother, my mother! I think of you now,
On the eve of the battle;
O sister and brother! I fain would tell how,
Ere the rifle falls rattle,
My memories mingle and merge into one,
For my lips may not tell, WHEN THE BATTLE IS WON.

O mother, my mother! my heart is with you
In the home you make holy;
O sister and brother! be faithful and true
Though your lot may be lowly;
Remember the last words of brother and son,
If no letter should come WHEN THE BATTLE IS WON.

O mother, my mother! the silence of night
Hides joy and hides sorrow; [light
There are mothers and brothers and sisters whose
Must die out on the morrow,
And the tears of the multitude be as of one
In the sorrow for all, WHEN THE BATTLE IS WON.

So mother, my mother! in case you should be
Bereaved with these mothers,—
And sister and brother! in case you should see
My name with some others—
I leave you the blessing of brother and son,
Who may not be here WHEN THE BATTLE IS WON.

WILLIAM E. FABOR.

Harlem, N. Y., Sept. 15th, 1864.

POSTAL MONEY-ORDER SYSTEM of the United States.

INTRODUCTORY.

The money-order system is intended to promote public convenience, and to insure safety in the transfer of money through the mails. The mode by which safety is secured consists in leaving out of the order the name of the payee or party for whom the money is intended. In this respect a money order differs from an ordinary bank draft or check. An advice or notification of the order drawn is transmitted by the issuing postmaster to the postmaster at the office of payment. The latter is thus furnished with all necessary information, and will therefore be informed of the name of the remitter and payee before the order itself can be presented, and be enabled to detect fraud, if any should be attempted.

It is expected that postmasters will use a legitimate influence in recommending the money-order system, and, by courteous attention to the inquiries of applicants, exhibit a superiority as a safe method of transmitting small sums of money through the mails.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE MONEY-ORDER SYSTEM.

I. Money-order offices are divided into two classes. Offices of the first class are depositories, in which those of the second class deposit their surplus money-order funds.

II. Any office in either class may draw upon any other office in the list of money-order offices for a sum, upon one order, from one dollar to thirty dollars. But when a larger sum than the latter is required, additional orders to make it up must be obtained.

III. When money orders exceeding \$150 in aggregate amount are issued in one day, and to the same person, by one or more offices upon a second-class office, the postmaster at the office so drawn upon will be permitted to delay the payment of such orders for five days.

IV. The money orders shall be made out upon printed forms supplied by the Post Office Department, and no order will be valid or payable unless given upon one of such forms.

V. Any person applying for a money order will be required to state the particulars upon a form of application which will be furnished to him for that purpose by the postmaster.

VI. If the purchaser of a money order, from having made an error in stating the name of the office of payment, or for other reasons, desires to have the said money order changed, the issuing postmaster will take back the first order, and issue another in lieu thereof, for which an additional fee shall be charged and exacted as for a new transaction. The order so taken back must be canceled by the postmaster, and entered in his books and returns, in its proper numerical order, as "canceled."

VII. Parties procuring money orders should examine them carefully, to see that they are properly filled up and stamped. This caution will appear the more necessary when it is understood that any defect in this respect will throw difficulties in the way of payment.

VIII. When a money order is presented for payment at the office upon which it is drawn, the postmaster or authorized clerk will use all proper means to assure himself that the applicant is the person named and intended in the advice; and upon payment of the order, care must be taken to obtain the signature of the payee (or of the person authorized by him to receive payment) to the receipt on the face of the order.

IX. When for any reason the payee of a money order does not desire, or is unable, to present the same in person, he is legally empowered, by his written endorsement thereon, to direct payment to be made to any other person; and it is the duty of the postmaster upon whom the order is drawn to pay the amount thereof to the person thus designated; provided the postmaster is satisfied that such endorsement is genuine, and that the second party shall give correct information as to the name and address of the person who originally obtained the order. MORE THAN ONE ENDORSEMENT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW, AND WILL RENDER AN ORDER INVALID AND NOT PAYABLE.

X. Any money-order office may repay an order issued by itself if repayment is applied for on the day of such issue, but then only to the person who obtained it, except in special cases.

The classification here noted does not, in any manner, refer to that enumerated in the act entitled "An act to establish salaries for postmasters, and for other purposes," approved July 1, 1864.

(See section 22 of the instructions to postmasters.) The fee or charge shall not, in any case, be refunded. If, however, repayment of an order is desired later than one day after its issue, the postmaster must refer the application to the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department. XI. The fees or charges for money orders will be as follows:

For an order of \$1 or more, but not exceeding \$10, 10 cents.

For an order of \$10 or more, but not exceeding \$20, 15 cents.

For an order of \$20 or more, but not exceeding \$50, 20 cents.

Fractions of cents must not be introduced into any order.

XII. When a money order has been lost by either remitter or payee, a duplicate thereof will be issued to the party losing the original, provided he shall furnish a statement, under oath or affirmation, setting forth the loss or destruction thereof, and a certificate from the postmaster by whom it was payable that the said order had not been paid, and would not thereafter be paid if presented. A second fee will be charged and exacted for the issue of duplicate orders.

Instructions to Postmasters at Money-order Offices.

[As our space will not admit of the publication of all of these instructions, we give here with the most important of them, and shall, in our next month's issue, publish those which are now necessarily omitted.—*EN. MAIL.*]

ISSUING ORDERS.

1. When a money order is applied for, the postmaster will furnish the applicant with a printed form of application, in which the latter, if able to write, must enter himself, or cause to be entered for him, if unable, all the particulars of amount, name, address, etc., required to be stated in the money order and advice.

2. From the items contained in such application, the postmaster will fill up the money order required in conformity therewith, and also the corresponding form of advice. The order, when completed, is to be handed to the applicant, upon payment of the sum expressed therein and of the fee chargeable thereon, which fee must invariably be paid in money, postage stamps not being receivable therefor. By the mail immediately following the issue of a money order, the postmaster must transmit, in a sealed envelope, the corresponding advice to the postmaster at the office upon which it is drawn. The utmost accuracy must be observed in writing both the order and the advice. The application must be numbered to correspond with the order issued, and filed for future reference.

3. Upon the issue of a money order, the postmaster will record all the particulars thereof in the Register of Money Orders Issued, as directed by the headings; and if any subsequent action should be taken in reference thereto (such, for instance, as repayment, the issue of a duplicate, &c.), he will note the alteration opposite the entry in the register under the head of "Remarks."

4. The issue of money orders on credit is strictly prohibited under the several regulations; and no moneys shall be received by a postmaster in payment for money orders other than coin, United States Treasury notes, or the notes of the national banks; nor can orders be legally paid in any other currency than that herein enumerated.

5. Money orders can only be issued at present upon such offices as are enumerated in the list; no moneys shall be received by a postmaster in payment for money orders other than coin, United States Treasury notes, or the notes of the national banks; nor can orders be legally paid in any other currency than that herein enumerated.

6. When orders are given for sums of one dollar, or for any amount in even dollars, the spaces for "cents" in writing and in figures, must be filled up with a heavy dash in each case, so that the possibility of adding "cents" may be prevented.

7. Postmasters will observe that the forms for money orders and advices are numbered consecutively from 1 to 500 or 1,000, or to higher numbers, according to the requirements of the issuing office. This is intended as a safeguard against the improper use of the blanks; and therefore when, through mistake, or from any other cause, any of them have been spoiled, the words "Canceled on _____" (adding the date), must be written or stamped across both the order and the advice. The order thus canceled must be transmitted to the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department with the weekly account, and must be entered therein in its proper numerical order, with the word "canceled" written opposite. The canceled advice must be kept on file in the office. No departure from this rule will be permitted, as the Postmaster General imperatively requires that EVERY BLANK FORM OF A MONEY ORDER SENT TO A POSTMASTER SHALL BE ACCOUNTED FOR AT THE END OF THE WEEK IN WHICH IT IS ISSUED OR CANCELED.

8. Postmasters who are intrusted with the duty of issuing money orders will invariably be held responsible for the acts of their subordinates in relation to such issues. It is desirable that the orders should in all cases be signed by the postmaster himself; but it may occasionally happen, by reason of his unavoidable absence, that it will be necessary for the assistant postmaster or designated clerk to sign the orders, in which case the postmaster's name must be written, and beneath it the name and designation of the writer; thus:

A. B., Postmaster.

By C. D., Asst. P. M. (or Clerk.)

PAYMENT OF ORDERS.

9. Upon the receipt of a money-order advice, the particulars thereof must be immediately entered in the Register of Advices Received. After being so entered, advices should be filed, arranged under the names of the offices by which they were issued, so that reference may readily be made to them whenever necessary.

10. When an order is referred for payment, the postmaster will first examine the document itself, to see that it is properly signed, stamped, &c.; he will then compare it with the record in the Register of Advices Received, and satisfy himself by questioning the applicant, and by such other means as may appear necessary, that the applicant is the person entitled to payment. No postmaster will be permitted to pay an order which is not drawn upon his office. This, however, does not preclude the repayment of an order

at the office where it was drawn, as specified in paragraph X of the general principles, and sections 21 and 22 of these instructions.

11. After payment of a money order, the date of such payment must be entered opposite the record thereof in the Register of Advices Received, and the word "paid" or "written" opposite the entry, in the column headed "Remarks."

12. Postmasters are prohibited, under any circumstances whatever, from paying a money order drawn by another office of which the advice has not been received; neither are they permitted to pay an order to a second person without the written indorsement to such second person by the payee on the back of the order. When orders are paid upon such authority, the utmost caution should be exercised; and before paying them, the postmaster must be satisfied that the signature to the indorsement is genuine, and that the person presenting the order is the one named in the indorsement.

LOST ORDERS.

13. If the remitter of a money order loses it, or if the same be lost before it reaches the payee, the former will make application to the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department, furnishing at the same time a statement, under oath or affirmation, setting forth the loss or destruction thereof, and a certificate from the postmaster by whom it was payable, that the said order had not been paid, and would not be paid if thereafter presented. Should the Department be satisfied of the correctness of the statement of loss, a duplicate will be transmitted to the issuing postmaster, to be delivered to the remitter, upon payment by the latter of an additional fee.

14. When a money order is lost by the payee, he will forward to the Department an application for a duplicate, together with the documents required by section 23; and the Department will, if satisfied as aforesaid, cause a duplicate to be transmitted to the postmaster upon whom the original was drawn, who will deliver the same to the payee, upon payment by him of an additional fee.

15. Under no circumstances whatever will the postmaster be allowed to issue a duplicate money order, which must in all cases be issued by the Department.

16. In all cases where postmasters are authorized to deliver duplicate money orders, the usual fees therefor must be charged and exacted.

FUNDS.

17. It is to be expected that occasionally at some offices the postmaster will be called upon to pay money orders to an amount exceeding that of the money-order funds in his hands. In such event he will transfer from the postage to the money-order account so much money as may be necessary to make the payments required. In case the postage funds are inadequate to meet such payments, the postmaster must immediately notify the Department, when he will be furnished with a Post Office Department draft for the amount required. Should the payments at any office continue to exceed the receipts thereat, the postmaster at such office will be furnished with a letter or credit upon the postmaster at New York, to be used only when absolutely required for the payment of money orders.

18. The dates of the issues of the several orders, and also of the deposits, as shown in the weekly accounts, will clearly show to the Department when the moneys received for such issues and deposits should have been remitted; and the postmaster will be held strictly accountable for any failure to remit, or to deposit promptly in obedience to the above instructions.

19. In all cases where advices of unpaid money orders are in the hands of postmasters on Saturday evening, they will be at liberty to withhold from the moneys they would have otherwise been required to deposit or to remit, such amount as will be held in reserve fund, will be sufficient to pay such orders; but in making up their weekly accounts they will accurately enumerate such advices in the space set apart for that purpose. Postmasters who fail to make this enumeration will be considered as having improperly withheld the money.

20. Postmasters will take notice that the standing instructions which they have heretofore received from the Post Office Department with respect to the disposal of balances due from them to the United States do not apply to money-order funds in their hands, but only to postage funds.

ACCOUNTS.

21. The money-order accounts must be kept separate and distinct from those of postage, and, together with all correspondence on money-order business, must be addressed to the Superintendent of the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department. It is desired that every envelope should be indorsed with a memorandum stating the nature of its contents.

22. The books required to be kept in each money-order office are:

1. A Register of Money Orders Issued, in which must be recorded daily the particulars of all orders issued.

2. A Register of Advices Received, which will be used for the record of advices.

3. A Cash Book, showing the debit and credit transactions of each day.

To insure uniformity in these books, patterns thereof will be furnished by the Department. The headings of the registers will so effectively direct postmasters, that no mistakes need occur in writing these books.

23. Postmasters must be particular to number their accounts consecutively, beginning with No. 1 at the commencement of each year. They must also be careful to write the names of the remitters and payees of the money orders so plainly in the accounts that there will be no difficulty in deciphering them.

WEEKLY RETURNS.

24. On Saturday evening of each week, postmasters will make up their weekly statement, being careful to state therein all the particulars of the last balance, and to compare the several items with those contained in the registers and cash book before forwarding the same, which must be done by the first mail after the accounts have been closed.

25. If no business has been transacted during the week, the postmaster will be required to send forward the usual form, with a statement of the last balance, and the words "no business" written across the face of the blank.

26. Postmasters will be careful to enter into their weekly returns neither more nor less than

the transactions of one week, and the week must be understood to commence on Monday, and to end on Saturday. But at the expiration of each quarter of the year, viz.: 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December, should either of these days not fall on Saturday, a statement must be made up and forwarded to the business transacted from the preceding Saturday up to the close of each of the days above named. On the Saturday next succeeding each of these dates, the statement will embrace only the business transacted since the first of the current month. The object of this regulation is to facilitate the quarterly settlement of the accounts of postmasters.

27. The paid and repaid orders must invariably accompany the returns, which will not be considered complete without them.

RESERVES.

28. The Postmaster General will allow a certain sum of money to be withheld by postmasters and money-order offices, so that they may always be ready to meet the orders drawn upon them. The amount of the reserves allowed an office will be determined by the extent and nature of the business transacted thereat, and will be changed from time to time, should circumstances warrant. When any post office is designated for the issue of money orders, the postmaster will be informed of the amount of reserve allowed. The reserves are intended as a provision for paying money orders presented at times when postmasters have little or no postage or money-order funds on hand. Postmasters will generally know in advance the demands that may be made upon them, as they are generally in possession of the advices before the corresponding orders can be presented; and if at any time the amount of the advices exceeds the amount of the reserve allowed, they will be permitted to withhold such amount as, with the reserves, will enable them to pay the orders when presented. A comparison of the dates and amounts of deposit, and an inspection by an agent of the Department of the Register of Advices Received, will always be sufficient to determine whether moneys have at any time been improperly withheld from deposit; and should such prove to be the case, the offender will be subject to the penalties of embezzlement, under the eleventh section of the act establishing a postal money-order system.

BALANCES DUE BY POSTMASTERS.

29. By the terms of the section above named, postmasters are forbidden, under severe penalties, from converting to their own use, in any manner whatever, money-order funds; and they will be required at all times to satisfy a special agent of the Department who may call upon them for that purpose, that they actually have on hand the balance of such funds due by them as exhibited by their accounts.

30. COMPENSATION OF POSTMASTERS FOR CONDUCTING THE MONEY-ORDER BUSINESS.

31. At all money-order post offices where the annual salary of the postmaster is fixed at a sum less than \$4,000, he is allowed, in addition to such salary, as a compensation for transacting the money-order business, one-third of the fee received for the issue of money orders, and one-half of one per cent upon the gross amount of orders paid. But if the entire receipts from these rates of compensation for his money-order business should be added to his annual salary, except the sum of \$4,000 per annum, or \$1,000 per quarter, the surplus of such receipts shall be accounted for to the Department. Each postmaster will make, at the close of each quarter, a statement of the amount to which he is entitled under this rule; and after examination and verification of the same at the Department, he will be duly notified of the amount allowed, and instructed as to the proper entry to be made thereof. Postmasters whose annual salary equals or exceeds \$4,000 receive no additional compensation for the transaction of the money-order business.

FORMS.

32. The blank forms which will be furnished to postmasters at money-order offices are as follows:

Application for money orders.
Special advices.
Blanks for weekly statements.
Blank drafts on the postmaster at New York.
Certificates of deposit on money-order accounts.
Postmasters should be careful not to suffer their stock of these blanks to become exhausted, but to make a timely application for a new supply.

33. When a post office is designated as a money-order office, the postmaster will be furnished with patterns for the books required to be kept; and upon the receipt of said patterns he will cause the books to be prepared in accordance therewith. These books are—
Register of Money Orders Issued.
Register of Advices Received.
Cash Book.

34. Appended to these instructions are the forms which postmasters are desired to use in communicating with the Department upon the subjects to which they severally refer. It is not required that these forms shall be printed.

DELAYS AND ERRORS, &c.

35. Negligence or delay in transmitting the weekly returns, or in remitting or depositing funds according to instructions, are serious obstacles to the successful working of the money-order system, and postmasters must be cautious in these respects. As intimated elsewhere, the withholding of money contrary to the regulations will subject the offender to serious penalties.

36. The success of the money-order system will greatly depend upon the attention, promptitude, and accuracy of postmasters; and it is expected, therefore, that each postmaster will be careful to conform to the rules, as well as to see that the orders and advices which come to him from other offices are properly and correctly executed. Should they be otherwise, the facts must be reported to the Department.

37. It may be presumed that, in the operations of the money-order system, circumstances of an unusual character, not provided for in these instructions, may occasionally arise. Should a postmaster at any money-order office meet with any great and unexpected difficulty, he will at once communicate the facts of the case to the Department; and when an immediate decision

is absolutely necessary, he may make use of the telegraph for that purpose. But the postmaster should not refer to the Department petty obstacles or perplexities, which, though not provided for in these rules, it is his duty to decide upon according to his own best judgment.

38. It may be anticipated also that circumstances will occur indicating the expediency of modifying or of adding to the provisions of the money-order system as herein described. As it is intended to make the system as efficient as possible, postmasters are requested to communicate to the money-order office of the Department any fact coming to their knowledge which may tend to show the necessity for any modification of the present rules, or any change in the method of their application which practical experience would indicate to be an improvement.

39. No money-order business is to be transacted on Sundays.

M. BLAIR,

Postmaster General.

FORMS.

[Copies of such forms as are not furnished by the Department, and which it is not deemed necessary at this time to cause to be printed, are here appended for the information of postmasters at money-order offices. It is requested that postmasters will use these forms in communicating with the Department upon the subjects to which they severally refer.]

[FORM No. 4.]

Notice of Overdrafts upon Second-class Offices.
POST OFFICE _____, 186 ____.

Sir: I have to inform you that I have this day issued money orders upon the post office at _____, in favor of _____, to the amount of \$ ____.

Very respectfully, _____, Postmaster.

To the Superintendent of the Money-order Office,
Post Office Department.

[FORM No. 7.]

Application by Remitter or Payee for renewal of a lost money order.
POST OFFICE _____, 186 ____.

Sir: I have to inform you that money order No. _____, issued at _____, on the _____ day of _____, 186 ____, in favor of _____, (remitter by _____,) for the sum of \$ _____, and payable by the postmaster at _____, has been lost by _____, as above stated, who desires to obtain a duplicate of the original.

Very respectfully, _____, Postmaster.

To the Superintendent of the Money-order Office,
Post Office Department.

Statement to be made by Remitter or Payee in case of the loss of a money order.

I, _____, the [payee or remitter,] of money order No. _____, specified in the accompanying letter of the postmaster at _____, hereby swear that the said money order has been [lost or destroyed] under the following circumstances: (State the particulars of loss or destruction.)

[Payee or Remitter.]
The above [sworn or affirmed] before me, this _____ day of _____, 186 ____.

[Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, or Clerk of Court.]

[FORM No. 8.]

Notification by Postmaster of application for a renewal of an order.

PARTICULARS Cause of invalidation and explanation thereof.

Date of issue, _____
No. of order, _____
Amount, _____
Where issued, _____
Where payable, _____
By whom remitted, _____

Sir: The enclosed order having become invalid from the reasons stated above, [the payee or remitter] has applied for a renewal thereof. I have to state that I have carefully examined the records in this office, and find that the order in question has not been repaid at the office of issue, and that no payment thereof has been made by duplicate.

Very respectfully, yours, _____, Postmaster.

To the Superintendent of the Money-order Office,
Post Office Department.

Statement to be made by the Remitter or Payee of a money order when the same has become invalid.

I, _____, the [remitter or payee,] of the money order No. _____, specified in the accompanying letter of the postmaster at _____, do hereby certify that the cause of the invalidation of the aforesaid money order is as follows: [Here insert the particulars.] therefore respectfully request a renewal of the order in question.

This _____ day of _____, 186 ____, before me, a _____, in and for the county of _____, State of _____, personally appeared _____, and [here insert the name of the person whose signature to the above certificate and the annexed money order are genuine; that the said _____ is well known to us, and that we truly believe him to be entitled to receive payment of the said money order.]

Sworn to before me, this _____ day of _____, 186 ____.

Very respectfully, _____, Postmaster.

To the Superintendent of the Money-order Office,
Post Office Department.

[FORM No. 9.]

Notification of Transfer of Funds from postage to money-order account, or vice versa.
POST OFFICE _____, 186 ____.

Sir: I beg leave to inform you that I have this day transferred the sum of \$ ____ from the _____ to the _____ account of this office.

Very respectfully, _____, Postmaster.

To the Superintendent of the Money-order Office,
Post Office Department.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. V., No. 2.

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1864.

WHOLE No. 50.

THE MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.

Instructions to Postmasters of Money Order Offices.

We give below those portions of the Money Order Instructions which we were obliged to omit from our last number for lack of room:

4. When any money-order office shall issue, in any day, orders upon a second-class office for a larger sum in the aggregate than \$150, the issuing postmaster will be required to send, by the first mail, a special notice of the fact, stating the amount drawn for, to the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department. (See Form No. 4.) Postmasters are required to pay strict attention to this rule, as a neglect of the duty it enjoins may result in delay of payment, and consequent inconvenience to the payee.

5. If the remitter of a money order desires to change the place of payment of the same, the issuing postmaster is authorized to take back the first order, which will be cancelled, and issue another in lieu thereof, for which an additional fee must be charged and exacted as on a new transaction. If the advice has gone forward, and the original order was drawn, the postmaster will, by the first mail, dispatch a special advice, notifying that office of the cancellation of said order. Bank forms for advices of this nature will be furnished to postmasters.

6. If a wrong name has been inserted in an order through error of the applicant, the postmaster, as in the above case, will take back and cancel the erroneous order, and will issue a new one, charging therefor a second fee; and if the advice has gone forward, he will immediately dispatch, as above, a special advice of cancellation. The special advice is not to be used instead of the proper accompanying advice of the new order, but is additional to it. Under no circumstances must a postmaster issue a new order in lieu of another until the original order shall have been returned to him and cancelled.

7. Fractions of cents must not be introduced into any money order or account.

8. The Christian names of both remitter and payee must be entered in the advice in full when possible; and married women must be described by their own names, and not those of their husbands. Thus, the appellation "Mrs. P. Jones" is inadmissible, as it does not accurately describe the payee, whose true name may be Mrs. Mary Brown. Both names and surnames must be written so legibly as effectually to guard against errors.

9. It is strictly required that the money order shall bear the stamp of the office of issue as well as of that of payment, and that the stamp of the office of issue shall be stamped in ink at all times a clear impression, a special stamp must be employed for this purpose, which should never be used for stamping letters. Should the stamp of the issuing postmaster be wanting upon a money order, the postmaster at the office upon which it is drawn must invariably decline payment. Orders from which the stamp of either office has been omitted, will be rejected as vouchers by the Department, and will be returned to the postmaster by whom they were paid, in order that the omission may be supplied.

10. Postmasters are expected to exercise their judgment with respect to the places upon which money orders may be issued, and to be particularly careful in this respect, as it is their duty to be productive of inconvenience to the payee. Therefore, when occasion requires, postmasters will endeavor to ascertain which is the money-order office most conveniently situated for the purpose of the remitter, and to advise him that the order be drawn thereon.

11. When money orders issued on one person are presented on the same day at an office of the second class for a sum exceeding \$150, the postmaster will be at liberty to defer the payment for five days. This permission to delay such payment must, however, be understood as authorizing the postmaster to do so when he has sufficient funds in hand, whether arising from the issue of money orders, or from postages, the remitter being solely to afford him time to procure the requisite amount of funds to meet the orders. Should a postmaster who has sufficient funds of the Department in his hands refuse to pay orders drawn upon him when duly presented, such refusal will be deemed cause for his immediate removal.

12. In the event of the repayment of a money order in the advice of such order has been mailed to the office upon which it was drawn, the issuing postmaster will immediately forward the special advice of repayment prepared for that purpose; and when a postmaster receives such special advice of the repayment of an order by the issuing postmaster, he will write the words "Repaid at _____ (name of the place.) Received in the Register of Advice _____" and also upon the original advice, which, with the special one, he will place on file.

13. Every order repaid must be signed by the remitter, or person who procured it. But if he should be unable to make application for such repayment in person, it can be made to another party, in which case the remitter will fill up the instrument on the back with the name of the person to whom he wishes the payment made, and sign his own name thereto, substituting the word "remitter" for that of "payee," where the latter occurs. But a postmaster will exercise the greatest caution in repaying an order to a second person.

INVALID ORDERS.

14. Any order which is not presented for payment until after the expiration of ninety days from the date thereof, is declared "invalid and not payable" by the fifth section of the act establishing a postal money order system; and the postmaster to whom such order is presented must refuse payment of the same. He will notify the Department of the presentation of such order, and will also state, after careful examination, whether it has been repaid at the office of issue, or whether it has been paid at the office of payment by duplicate. In order to obtain payment of such invalid order, the holder will be required to forward the same to the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department, together with a statement of the cause of delay in presentation for payment. If the reasons given are satisfactory, and the Department is satisfied that the original was drawn, who will deliver the same

to the payee upon payment by him of an additional fee.

15. Section 6 of the law establishing a postal money-order system provides that more than one indorsement upon an order shall render the same invalid and not payable. Hence, the postmaster to whom an order thus illegally indorsed shall be presented, must refuse payment of the same; and the holder thereof, to obtain payment of the order, is required to return the original with a written application for a renewal, to the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department, and to furnish the statement, under oath or affirmation, of two responsible persons known to the postmaster (whose certificate shall be appended thereto) that the indorsement is genuine, and that the holder is the person named therein. Upon his compliance with these requirements a duplicate will be issued as above.

16. When, upon adjusting the accounts of the office at the close of the week, the postmaster finds that the cash on hand derived from money orders issued exceeds by \$30 the amount allowed such office as a reserve, the whole and exact amount over and above such reserve must be deposited at the designated office of the first class where the postmaster at said second-class office shall have been instructed to deposit his money-order funds. But if the cash in hand at any time during the week exceeds by \$50 the reserve allowed, such excess must be deposited without delay, provided the postmaster has not already received advices of money orders drawn upon him of a sufficient amount to absorb such surplus of reserve. (See section 19.) [The sole exception to this rule is whenever a postmaster receives special instructions from the Superintendent of the Money-order Office to retain such surplus in order to pay drafts or collection orders issued by the Post Office Department in favor of creditors of the United States.] In taking credit for the deposits above directed, each of them must be entered under its proper date, and not in one aggregate amount without date. The postmaster at the office receiving these deposits will except on duplicate certificates therefor, one of which he will transmit to the depositing postmaster, and the other to the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department.

17. In like manner, whenever a postmaster at any office of the first class has on hand, at the close of the week, money-order funds, derived from issues or from deposits, in an amount exceeding by \$50 the reserve allowed his office, he will remit the whole or such excess to the postmaster at New York; and whenever at any time during the week the excess in question amounts to \$100, it must at once be remitted as above directed, subject, however, to the exception noted in the preceding paragraph. The latter will furnish without delay a duplicate certificate to the postmaster and to the Department for such remittance.

18. In writing up the cash book, the balance will first be brought forward. Then, on the Dr. side, must be entered: The amount of any Department draft received, the amount received upon a check drawn by the postmaster upon a postmaster at New York under authority of the Postmaster General's credit, and the amount transferred from the postage to the money-order account, should either or any of these transactions have taken place; then the amount received from the issue of money orders, the amount of fees thereon, and finally the balance, should there be any. The Cr. side must embrace: The amount paid for money orders drawn upon the postmaster, the amount received on the postage account, the amount remitted or deposited, the premium, if any, paid for a draft to make such deposit, and, lastly, the balance.

19. The cash book must be written up and balanced every day. Each office of the first class will be required to furnish, with a weekly account, a transcript of the cash book for the week.

Form of Cash Book.

Dr. — P. M. at — in acct with the Money Order Office, P. O. D., the day of —, 186—.

To bal. brought forward	By amount paid for money orders drawn on this office
\$40 00	\$200 00
To amount transferred from postage acct.	
100 00	
To amt of fees on money orders issued, Nos. — to —	
118 22	
To amt of fees upon sum — — —	
90 00	
Total 256 22	By balance 9 72
	256 72

CHEQUES AT NEW YORK IN FAVOR OF MONEY-ORDER OFFICES.

20. Whenever it is found necessary, in order to prevent delay or embarrassment in the payment of money orders, the postmasters at certain offices will be allowed credit to a designated amount with the postmaster at New York, which credit will be used in the following manner: When, at any office having such credit, the funds, whether arising from postages or from the money-order business, are insufficient to pay the orders presented, the postmaster will thereupon be permitted to draw a draft, payable to his own order, against the amount placed to his credit at New York, for such a sum, and no more, as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the case. It is therefore apparent that this credit must be drawn by installments; for example, \$50, \$100, \$200, &c., as may be required, and not in one gross sum. The amounts so drawn from time to time must be entered by the postmaster in his debit in the cash book upon the day they are drawn, and also in the weekly account. Should the amount of orders paid at any one of these offices continue considerably to exceed the amount of orders issued, this credit will of course in time become exhausted; and it will be the duty of the postmaster to provide for this contingency by making timely application to the Postmaster General, through the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department, for a renewal of credit at the post office at New York.

21. For the purpose of drawing against the credits at New York, special drafts will be supplied to postmasters having such credits, who, in the margin provided for their own special use, will state the amount of the credit, and enter and deduct from it the amount drawn by the corresponding draft, by which means they will be constantly reminded of the condition of the fund, so that, before it is exhausted, they may

make application for a renewal, if the same should be necessary. Each of these drafts bears a coupon, which the postmaster drawing the draft will fill up and sign, and which the postmaster at New York will transmit to the Money-order Office of the Post Office Department whenever the draft is paid. Exchange on New York being at par or at a premium throughout the country, no difficulty will be experienced by a postmaster in immediately obtaining the amount of such draft from any national bank or other responsible bank in his locality. For this purpose a form of indorsement is printed upon the back. In the negotiation of these drafts the postmaster is not at liberty to receive any funds other than coin or the currency issued under the authority of the United States, inasmuch as he is prohibited from paying out any other money or receipts for a draft, the postmaster must immediately charge himself with the amount of such premium.

22. Postmasters are strictly prohibited from drawing drafts in manuscript, or upon any other forms than those supplied by the Department for the purpose; and the postmaster at New York is instructed to refuse payment should such be presented.

DEPOSITS AND REMITTANCES.

23. A postmaster, at an office of the second class can make the deposits required by the instructions (see 30) by transmitting the amount to be deposited in a registered package, addressed to the postmaster of the first-class office designated as his depository. Each postmaster in every case, by a disinterested witness, that he actually inclosed the money in the package and duly mailed the latter; otherwise, should the money be lost, he will be held responsible therefor. If there is a national bank in his locality, the postmaster is at liberty to procure from such bank a draft for the amount which it is necessary for him to deposit upon some national bank located in the same town with his depository, which draft he will immediately transmit by mail to the postmaster at the said depository, to whom it must be made payable. The premium, if any, paid for such drafts, must never exceed one-half of one per centum; and the postmaster must obtain from the bank, in each case, a voucher for the premium, with which he will credit himself in his weekly account, and the voucher must be forwarded herewith at the close of each week.

24. Postmasters at offices of the first class can make remittances to the postmaster at New York, by procuring drafts upon a national bank at New York, in the manner and with the restriction above indicated, unless they find it more advantageous to forward to New York, in a registered package, the funds to be deposited. In such cases the remittance must take place in the presence of a disinterested witness, as specified in the preceding section with reference to offices of the second class.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

A Government appointment, whether insignificant or important, should not turn an active man into a passive one; a plain man into a proud one, a humane man into a tyrant, or a valuable member of society into a drone. Yet I regret to say such antipodean changes have come under my observation frequently in the course of my travels. This is not only so in regard to certain post-office people, but it applies to the representatives of every Government Department throughout the land. I do not propose, however, to turn general public censor, and will not therefore wander from the object of my greatest solicitude—the P. O. Why, sir, I do know of some gentlemen now filling the position of Postmasters who have grown so listless (I won't say indolent) and unenergetic as to evince positive and decided disinclination to co-operate with the Department in carrying out popular projects, designed to benefit all classes by an efficient elaboration of postal facilities, so simplified and convenient as to be fully commensurate with the wants and wishes of the people, and which will ultimately increase the revenue so as to render the P. O. Department self-sustaining, if not actually a remunerative branch of the General Government.

To be sure, some of the plans originated and put in operation in an experimental way, may require important modifications, may increase temporarily the mental and physical labor of deputy postmasters, and may involve the loss of time, and the wear and tear of patience. Suppose they do! It will only be for a short time. The advantages of steam, electricity, sun painting, and chloroform were not realized in a day! My advice to these gentlemen is to make themselves popular by great efforts to accommodate their fellow-citizens with whom they will be mutual sharers in the benefits which will accrue; and if any measure suggested by the Department, which has for its object the promotion of the public good, should at first blush seem impracticable and objectionable, let them feel that it is their duty morally and officially, instead of fudging faintly to disarm every local prejudice, and do it!

"A wise man makes more opportunities than he finds." My remarks, of course, only apply to the select few. I have heard advance opinions. I might hear more if I were any one else but a looker-on in Venice. As it is, I must be satisfied, and hope that nobody will feel vexed.

Did it ever occur to you that much annoyance and distress are caused by the stupidity and carelessness of those who empty mail bags in post-offices? I have often stood and watched the operation. A bag is unlocked, the strap drawn out, and the contents hastily thrown on the table, and then it is cast aside without any further examination. Frequently these pouches are not used for a considerable time afterwards, and when they get into careful hands, out comes

some old letters which have lain there for months. If they contain money orders representatives, they are so valuable, but if they convey news of marriages, births or deaths, messages of joy or sorrow, directions, instructions, requests, promises to pay, promises to come, to go, to do, to be, to get, to give, to try (figurative of course), to the end, why the effect is lost. Just imagine the letter of a wealthy baronial lover coming into his wife's hands after they have been married long enough to see the illusion of love in blue and gold fade away, and the endearing terms of "my dear" and "my pet," chilled and frozen over by the conventional "Mr. and Mrs. Fanny, eh?" But my impression is that these neglected letters do not always get into the hands they are intended for. I believe many of them get among the sweepings and other perquisites, and from thence are transferred to the premises of buyers of old paper and rags, which is only one remove from the paper mill. Perhaps thus and there forever disappeared from human view the love letter I ought to have received years ago, and which might, had it come to hand, have been the prelude to a life of domestic felicity for the undersigned, fault-finding old bachelor.

Sometimes in my dreams, even now, I see Sarah Jane Maria's neatly written and sweetly perumed epistle, that informed me that I loved wisely and not a bit too well, in the hands of some evasive young rag-picker. I see him read, mark, and inwardly digesting the lines which were intended for my eye alone, and then the little missive is remorselessly thrust into the companionship of rubbish collected from sewers and garbage barrels, or is sandwiched between remnants of "foul shirts, smocks, socks, sour stockings and greasy napkins." Horrible! Richard's dream was a luxury in comparison to mine. In a future letter I will discuss the paper mill business at large; at present my memory is busy with the scenes of forty years ago, when Navarino bonnets were fashionable and Sunday gowns with waists immediately under the shoulder-blades the latest style.

A few words more, and I am done for the present. I am greatly amused occasionally to see with what importance some village postmasters come to the mail-cars with their postal packages in their hands—their total disarray, obsolete safe-guards, and the assumption of such a high privilege as their disuse is, I suspect, the ultimatum of their official ambition.

I think if they had orifices cut in the crowns of their hats, those useful coverings could be converted into letter boxes, into which citizens might drop their mail matter as they pass to and from the cars, and thus obviate the necessity and save the expense of hiring a building for postal purposes.

MO-SICKER TONSON.

Sights and Scenes in Dixie, No. 2.

Dear Matt—

I dare say you have set me down as a modern Rip Van Winkle, for if I recollect aright we parted some months since—I to sleep, and you still to shed your light over the realm of Post Offices. But I've not been slumbering ever since—for "many things I've seen" in my wanderings, though my name is not "Johnny Green," as was the little sailor boy's, of blessed school-day memory.

My rambling notes I fear do not confine themselves to matters strictly post official. The truth is the "pent up Ulicia" of mail service down in Dixie does not afford such field for moralizing, as do those more favored regions north of us, where war's dread alarms have been comparatively unknown. So necessarily I take a look occasionally at the country, in its varied beauty, even amidst its desolation.

Lookout Mountain, memorable in the history of the war, as also prince of the bigblades here, at first sight disappointed my expectations; but when I came to ascend its rugged sides, I soon began to appreciate its grand proportions. The surrounding mountains drooped down into modest hills in his presence, and the hills lost their individuality and seemed merged into the valleys, which girded them. Like a threat of silver the Tennessee river lay at our feet, while bill and valley marked its course far into the American Switzerland. People here constantly refer to the north as "God's country," but standing on this grand earth altar with a scene of most beauty spread out before my admiring eye, I am forced to exclaim that this is emphatically God's country, sealed with the imperishable imprint of his beauty.

Back in the country, some seven miles, are the lake—or more properly speaking pool—and cascades, which always form an objective point in every sight-seer's travels on this mountain. The pool covers a space probably 100 yards in diameter, and is said to be of great depth; on either side tower cliffs, where massive heights are mirrored in the blue waters. Nature's wild beauty is everywhere displayed, but the crowning glory of this weird glen is the fall—a sheet of crystal water leaping over a precipice probably one hundred and thirty feet high. When I saw it the waters sparkled brightly in the sun, spreading out over the rocks like a gorgeous lace veil, while the wild flowers clung to the

rocks around, adding, if possible, beauty to the scene. But I hadn't long to tarry, for gathering shadows warned us of the approaching evening, and our merry party returned, I have no doubt wiser and better for our visit.

From Chattanooga to Atlanta is a pleasant (?) ride of 137 miles, made in some 15 hours—provided you are not run off the track, or delayed by the little et ceteras peculiar to this country and the present state of affairs. At Chattanooga the post office is regularly opened under the civil authority. It has recently been enlarged and "additional boxes, &c., added, which were badly needed. At first, Mr. Hood, the P. M., labored under very great disadvantages, of which, want of room and experienced clerical force may be mentioned; but these have been overcome, and the post office of to-day presents a very favorable contrast with that of six months ago. The postal arrangements abandoned by our "erring brethren" (to use a phrase quite popular with those gentlemen who are so tender about rebel sensibility that they would rather give up the nation's life lest they be offend'd.) were by no means complimentary to them, or adequate to the wants of that great reading and writing party of excursionists known as Sherman's Army. No army the world has ever seen, has contained so much intelligence, and the bulk of its correspondence will astonish even those accustomed to post office business in its largest phases. Everything considered, its postal facilities are as good as that North, though occasionally the fortunes of war stop communications, and then the *Seward* is required to open the way that the *Pen's* God speed may pass on.

All letters are first separated into regimental packages, securely tied and then distributed to Corps bags. These are delivered at Atlanta to Corps Postmasters, who distribute to brigades, &c., and in return send back their mail for the north, separated by States, the paid letters from those not paid, and tied into packages, which are despatched to Nashville, and there mailed. The system has worked admirably, and the credit is due in a great measure to the efficiency and zeal of the detailed men, clerks and mail messengers, in this department. They are mostly private officers, and for intelligence and integrity will compare favorably with any P. O. corps in the country.

I found the Atlanta office had received several compliments from our batteries, shattering the roof and walls. On application, a new building was assigned me by Gen. Sherman's orders, and fitted up in first-rate style. I will make it only a military office, no civilians receiving letters through it, except they be addressed in care of some known officer. After a while I may give you something about the Gate City, and until then, I am, yours truly, O. K.

Write to the Soldiers.

A correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, writing from before Petersburg, says some good things on the subject of the duty of writing to the soldiers, which we commend to the attention of all who may not hitherto have considered the matter in the light in which it is here presented: "There is one thing to which I would beg leave to particularly invite the attention of the people and press at home. It is what perhaps might properly be called the magnetization or social sustenance of the army—or, rather, the keeping up of the electrical equilibrium of humanity. It is well known, in fact it is one of the grand secrets of the military profession, that the systematic and disciplined aggregation of armed men into companies, regiments, brigades, divisions, army corps, and armies with music and banners, and all the pageantries of war, has a powerful magnetic influence in the inspiration of endurance and courage in the face of the enemy, but in camp this influence meets with a powerful neutralizer. Camp life and exposure, absence from home and all its general and magnetic influences, go a great way in counteracting this exhaustive effect, physically, morally and mentally; but still there is a certain positive, electrical current wanted, to bring the *aplomb* of the army up to the proper standard, that these cannot supply. Well, if I must come right to the point, *home sickness* is naturally and necessarily the great bane of camp life. This can only be cured by a positive current of love and domesticity from home. Therefore, friends at home, write to your friends in the army. *Wives*, write to your husbands, and sweethearts, to your lovers. None of your nonsense, worrying them to come home, when they cannot, thus unmanning them, by intelligently, nobly, heroically, patriotically, Spartan-like, letting them know that you understand and appreciate the noble cause in which they are engaged, and sympathize in their deprivations and noble deeds of daring. Bring home to them, as much as possible, in your letters, with all its endearments, and keep up, diligently keep up, the electrical current between them and home, and the people at home, and the soldiers in the field, making the latter feel that they are at home, and fighting for free, glorious home; that home is with them and around them, and that they, as ever, are the idols and the prize of home; and this all-potent, magnetic influence, added to that of the bounty of the Government and the two Commissions, and of the pageantries, and the discipline, and the aggregation of war, will make our armies invincible and speedily victorious, and return to you your friends, your husbands, and your lovers, sadder than otherwise, and honor, and pride, and happiness to themselves and the homes that have spared and encouraged them."



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK, I. GAYLER, Editor. NEW YORK NOVEMBER, 1864

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, October 25, 1864.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General: Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them at as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official information.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department. On other subjects, also, it is safest to consult the latest number.

There are no changes in note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

Official Endorsement.

We have received from Postmaster General DENISON the following letter, which we are permitted to publish:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Oct. 13, 1864.

DEAR SIR:—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the "UNITED STATES MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT," as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal operations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

W. DENISON, Postmaster General, To J. GAYLER, Esq., Editor of U. S. Mail.

Official POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, FINANCE OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 1864.

SIR:—One of the objects of the new postal law being to reduce the labor at the various post offices, as well as to expedite the dispatch of mails, no record need be made on account of mails sent, or post-bills sent with packages of letters, unless they bear charges for unpaid postage. Post-bills received containing entries of prepaid matter only, should be merely filed away for reference. If they contain entries of both paid and unpaid postage, only the latter should be recorded on Accounts of Mails Received. As all offices will be classified during the current quarter, and the salaries commence on Oct. 1, 1864, no necessity exists for keeping accounts with the view of calculating commissions, therefore the discontinuance of post-bills (except as above) should at once take place at every office.

As far as is practicable, the wrapping of mail packets, especially to neighboring offices, may be discontinued. Care should be exercised to see that all packages are firmly secured with twine. The design of the Department is to use the old forms of blanks in connection with the new. Postmasters will therefore be careful that none of the former are wasted, but that they are kept in use until the supply is exhausted.

Only the columns for entry of unpaid matter are to be used. A. N. ZEVLEV, Third Assistant P. M. General.

New Forms of Accounts.

The following order in relation to the new forms of Accounts of Mails Received and Sent has been issued by the Department:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Oct. 29, 1864.

The new forms of account of "Mails Sent" and "Received" were prepared in view of an entire change in the manner of distributing letters, superseding the necessity for so many packages. It is intended to designate certain Head Offices at which mails will be made up for branch routes, and thus relieve distributing post offices of most of the work now done in them.

Until the changes are made, new blanks should be used for mailing to offices to which mails are sent as often as three times a week, and the old blanks for all other offices.

By arranging headings alphabetically, entries can be facilitated. These accounts can easily be kept with all the principal post offices—presenting at one view the operations of each month, and enabling the auditor to verify them by a simple comparison of the accounts of mails received at one office, with the account of mails sent thereto from another office.

It is the design of the Department to use all the old forms of blanks now on hand in connection with the new. A. N. ZEVLEV, Third Assistant P. M. General.

The following circular has been issued by the Department to the postmasters at all money order offices. Until further notice, no money orders can be drawn on the two offices mentioned below:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, MONEY ORDER OFFICE, WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, 1864.

SIR:—In consequence of the present liability of the Postal Service in Missouri to interruption by Rebel forces, the Money Order system will not be put into operation at Jefferson City and St. Joseph in that State until further notice.

These offices have therefore been temporarily suspended as Money Order Offices, and you are requested to correct your list accordingly. Respectfully, C. F. MACDONALD, Superintendent.

The Money Order System

Goes into operation on the first of the present month, the necessary arrangements having been completed by Dr. C. F. MACDONALD, the Superintendent of the Money Order Bureau. A copy of the law and the instructions of the Department in relation to the system, have been placed in the hands of each P. M. of a money order office, and have been published in this paper.

It is, we hope, scarcely necessary for us to urge upon all those to whom are entrusted the duties of postmasters or clerks at the money order office, a careful perusal of these instructions and a strict attention to their fulfillment. Some difficulties and embarrassments are not unlikely to be met with in the early stages of this most important movement; but all who are officially connected with it should see to it that none of these difficulties or embarrassments are due to their ignorance or neglect of the plain instructions which have been given for their guidance. A mere cursory perusal of these instructions cannot suffice to enable a P. M. or clerk to understand their full intent and bearings; they should be carefully and conscientiously studied by all to whom they apply, with a due appreciation of the magnitude and importance of the work to which they refer—remembering that, in the words of one of the instructions, "the success of the money order system will greatly depend upon the attention, promptitude and accuracy of postmasters; and it is expected, therefore, that each postmaster will be careful to conform to the rules as well as to see that the orders and advices which come to him from other offices are properly and correctly executed. Should they be otherwise, the facts must be reported to the Department."

The money order system is probably the most important step in postal progress which has yet been attempted in this country, and is, we believe, destined to be a complete success. Let those who, at its initiation, are charged by the Department with the operation of its details, make it a matter of pride and conscience, that that success shall not be retarded by any fault of theirs.

We give below replies to certain questions which have been received, in relation to points connected with the system, from postmasters at money order offices. These answers have the sanction of the Department, and may therefore be considered as conclusive by all who may be in doubt as to the matters therein referred to:

- 1.—No revenue stamp is required on a money order.
2.—When a postmaster purchases a draft on a national bank, for the purpose of transmitting money order funds on deposit account, the cost of the revenue stamp affixed thereon is to be considered as a part of the exchange or premium paid for said draft, and credit is to be taken therefor as stated in 37 of the Instructions.
3.—When a post office is designated as a money order office, the postmaster will be furnished with patterns for the books required to be kept; and upon the receipt of said patterns, he will immediately cause the books to be prepared in accordance therewith. These books are—Register of Money Orders Issued. Register of Advances Received. Cash Book.

In no case will they be supplied by the Department, or by the blank agencies. It is recommended that the books be made about five (5) quires each.

The cost of manufacture is to be entered in the money order expense account, and at the end of the quarter the proper vouchers are to be transmitted to the Money Order Office of the Post Office Department, accompanied with a statement of incidental expenses. As these expenses are to be paid out of the proceeds of the money order business, postmasters are required to keep separate accounts of their "Postage" and "Money Order" expenditures.

4.—Postmasters are authorized to provide such additional fixtures and stationery, and to make any slight alterations in the arrangements at their respective offices as may be absolutely required for the transaction of the money order business—but no other expenditures can be allowed.

5.—In making a transfer of funds—from "Postage" to the "Money Order" account, postmasters will first take credit for the amount of said transfer in their General Account with the Post Office Department; they will then debit themselves therewith in the Money Order Cash Book and enter the transaction under its proper head in the weekly statement following each transfer. If from the "Money Order" to the "Postage" account, the amount must be entered on the credit side of the Money Order Cash Book and a corresponding entry made on the debit side of the General Account. The transfer to be noted in the weekly statement, as before. A notification (see form No. 9, in the Instructions), in all cases to be forwarded to the Money Order Office of the Post Office Department, immediately following a transfer of funds from either account.

Postmasters at money order offices should be careful to write the letters "M. O. B." on all envelopes containing letters of advice which they send to other money order offices.

The New Postmaster General.

We are able to furnish our readers this month with a more extended sketch of the new Postmaster General, than our limits last month would allow:

William Dennison was born in the city of Cincinnati on the 3rd day of November, 1815. His father was a popular and prosperous huckster in the young and rapidly growing city, and citizen in the whole community being more respected for probity and good worth among the pioneer settlers of Ohio and their descendants. He took great pride in his promising son, young William, and largely devoted his pecuniary means to secure the boy a thorough and solid classical education. In preparation for his college course he had the benefit of the best schools and teachers in his native city, and in the year 1831 he entered freshman in the Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, then and now a flourishing and highly respected institution, which has educated many of the most prominent and powerful minds of the great and populous region north of the Ohio river, among whom are the names of Caleb B. Smith, late Secretary of the Interior and formerly, United States Judge in Indiana, now deceased; Major General Robert C. Schenck, Samuel Galloway, William S. Crossbeck, George S. Pugh, and others of equal note.

In September, 1835, near the close of his twelfth year, he graduated, with high honor to himself and the University, then under the long successful presidency of the Rev. R. H. Bishop, D. D., a learned and venerated Presbyterian clergyman, who had early been induced to migrate from Scotland to the northern United States by the solicitation and in the company of a renowned divine, John Mason, of the Scotch Presbyterian church in New York, who at that time brought over a very useful and famous little clerical colony to this country.

Young Dennison then immediately returned to Cincinnati, and there commenced the study of law in the office of the late G. W. Shelton (father of the democratic candidate for the Vice Presidency,) and Stephen Fane, one of the most eminent lawyers of the West. In his youth a classmate of Daniel Webster, at Dartmouth College, and always his intimate personal friend. Completing his legal studies, and admitted to the bar, he began the practice of his profession in his native city. Soon afterwards he married the beautiful and highly educated daughter of William Nell, of Columbus, (the State Capital,) a famous and extensive mail contractor throughout the Northwest, whose name was very familiar to travelers and newspaper readers twenty or thirty years ago, in the days of stage coaches, when railroad enterprise was in its infancy at the West.

In 1840 he formed a law partnership with the late famous and noble general, Indian warrior by adoption and taste, leader of scalping parties, &c. In the execution of that arrangement he removed to Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas. But the conditions—moral, intellectual, social and political—by which he found himself there surrounded, induced him, after a brief residence and experience, to terminate the connection and return to Cincinnati, where he resumed his professional business. In 1842, at the earnest solicitation of his father-in-law, he removed to Columbus, which became thereafter his home. He was made solicitor of the Clinton Bank of that city; then President of the Bank of Columbus, and he finally accepted the entire management and control of all the vast mail contract and postal business of Mr. Neil throughout the region between the Ohio and the great lakes.

In politics Mr. Dennison was an original whig. Throughout the existence of that party organization he was a firm, consistent and zealous active member of it. In 1847 he was elected to a two years' term in the Ohio Senate. He next served as President of the Columbus and Xenia Railroad until 1849, when he resigned his position by the republican party Government of the State; he resigned his position in connection with corporations. The great rebellion found him Commander-in-Chief of Ohio. He immediately organized and placed at the disposal of the federal government seventy thousand troops, and in offering them gave to George B. McClellan and William S. Buerens their first commissions as general officers.

Governor Dennison is a working business man. He is an impressive orator, tall in person, of courtly but winning manners. He is a good specimen of a Christian gentleman, a devoted member of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Important Order.

We call attention to the order published in the first column of this page, directing the discontinuance of the practice of sending post-bills with packages containing only paid matter, and also the discontinuance of entries, except of unpaid matter, in the Accounts of Mails Sent and Received. A copy of this order has been sent to all offices of the first three classes, and will also be sent to those of the fourth and fifth classes as soon as their salaries are adjusted, which will certainly be during the present quarter. Meantime, the order of course applies to all offices.

The same order directs that as far as practicable, the wrapping of mail packets, especially to neighboring offices, may be discontinued. It is of course important that such packets should be firmly secured with twine, in such a manner as to avoid the possibility of their becoming loosened, and also that when several letters are contained therein, one of those most plainly directed should be placed so as to face outward at each end of the package. Where one letter only is sent, a wrapper may be used.

TRANSFER OF POSTAGE FUNDS TO MONEY ORDER ACCOUNT.—Postmasters at money order offices, in transferring, (according to instruction 29, Money Order Instructions) postage funds to the money order account, cannot be too careful to avoid a confusion of the two accounts. At the larger offices, this may be prevented by making such transfer only by a check drawn on the cashier; in those offices where the funds are in the postmaster's own custody, a check drawn on "Postage Funds," in favor of "Money Order Funds," giving all particulars of date and amount, should be drawn whenever such a transfer is made, to be kept with the postage funds as a voucher. Care should of course be taken to charge the money order cash account at once with all sums so transferred. A failure to keep the postage and money order funds strictly and entirely separate will result in great confusion and annoyance, and all necessary care and watchfulness should be exercised to prevent it.

An insane P. M., whom "too much learning (of Latin) had made mad," inquires whether it is not "wrong in itself" to send letters across the ocean, because the process is *malum per se* (evil in itself).

Concerning Swoppe.

We have occasionally published some of the many favorable opinions embodied in the letters of our subscribers, of the usefulness of this journal, and have been glad to receive such evidences of their appreciation of our humble labors in behalf of the efficiency of the postal service. "Send it along another year—can't get along without it," has been the pleasant burden of a great majority of the letters enclosing renewals of subscription. Other commendatory expressions reached us daily from our patrons until we really had begun to flatter ourselves, that the U. S. Mail was an article that postmasters might find "handy to have about the house." One day last month, however, this illusion was for a time rudely dispelled by Swoppe. Swoppe (Emanuel, Jr.) is Postmaster at Seacock, Pa. Swoppe subscribed for the Mail about seventeen months ago, and it was sent regularly to his address. Last month the publisher of the Mail took the liberty of sending Swoppe a bill for the second year's subscription. Swoppe didn't send the money. But he sent back the 8th number of the Mail. And he wrote bitter things on the wrapper thereof. He wrote "I don't want this thing of a paper." This wasn't polite in Swoppe. It wasn't considerate. But it was emphatic. It was clear to the publisher that Swoppe didn't want the Mail any more. But as Swoppe had received four numbers of the Mail which he hadn't paid for, the publisher took another liberty. He sent Swoppe a bill for the four numbers. Swoppe didn't pay that either. But he wrote a letter to the publisher, and he said: "I don't owe you the first cent of paper. I am not indebted to you for the paper. I never receipt it."

"Now if Swoppe 'never receipt' the Mail, which did he get the September number which he sent back? But we shall not 'pause for a reply' to this question, for we are not likely to receive any. It is clear to us, however, that Swoppe has made a mistake. He does want the Mail—wants it 'bad.' Because it would teach him several things of which he is evidently ignorant. For instance: it would teach him that it is contrary to law to send a transient paper without prepaying the postage; that any writing on the wrapper of such a paper, subjects the entire package to letter postage; that it is very wrong for a postmaster to use wrapping paper belonging to the government for private purposes; and perhaps it would teach him how to spell correctly. So, after all we shall not allow Swoppe's conduct to shake our faith in the good opinions which our friends have expressed concerning the Mail. Swoppe appears to be the only one among our subscribers who thinks he don't want the Mail—and even he is mistaken.

To our Debtors—Past and Present.

We have to return our thanks to the large number of our subscribers who have responded to our suggestion as to the remittance of the subscriptions due by them, and we respectfully commend their example to those who are still in arrears. We are aware that most of those who are included in this latter class, are there through forgetfulness; but if each one of them who reads this paragraph will postpone further perusal of our columns until he has enclosed the amount of his indebtedness in a letter addressed "Publisher U. S. Mail, New York," and mail it, he will thus atone for past neglect, and can resume his reading with the satisfaction which always accompanies the performance of an act of duty.

Subscribers who have remitted the amount of their renewal of subscriptions during the past month, and do not find it credited by the change of the numbers on the wrappers of this month's issue, are informed that the necessary alteration will appear next month. The necessity of directing the wrappers some time in advance is the cause for this apparent neglect to give credit for renewed subscriptions paid.

Hon. GREEN AVAMS has resigned the position as Auditor of the Treasury for the P. O. Department (Sixth Auditor of the Treasury), which he has acceptably filled for several years, and ELIAS SELLS, Esq., has been appointed to fill the vacancy thus created.

Depredation Cases.

SOLDIERS' LETTERS THEFTS DETECTED.—On 25th of August, Special Agent Wm. L. Kelly arrested Rollin A. Waters, a detailed clerk at the Nashville, Tenn., Post Office, on a charge of mail robbery. He was held for trial. On September 5th, Mr. Kelly arrested Geo. Eschenfelder, military postmaster at Bridgeport, Ala., on a similar charge. He was delivered to the military authorities for trial. On the 22d inst., Booth Latin, late military postmaster at the Knight General Hospital, New Haven, Conn., was arrested, charged with obtaining by means of forged orders, from the post office of that place, registered letters belonging to patients at the hospital. He was held for trial.

SELAN NORTH, Postmaster at Clarendon, Orleans Co., N. Y., was arrested on the 30th of Sept. by Special Agent Sharratt, on a charge of embezzling letters, and using cancelled stamps. The evidence against him is conclusive. Mr. North is well advanced in years, is possessed of considerable property, and has maintained a most respectable position in the community in which he lived.

HENRY C. NILES, a clerk in the city delivery department of the New York Post Office, was arrested by the Special Agent at that city on the 17th inst., charged with the embezzlement and riding of mail letters. He confessed his guilt; ample evidence of which was also found in his possession. He was committed to prison in default of \$5000 bail.

SOLON W. RICE, a box clerk in the New York Post Office, was also lately arrested on a charge similar to the above, and was bailed in \$5000 to await the action of the Grand Jury.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Ed. U. S. Mail.—In your last issue you say each postmaster is required to have a sworn assistant, who shall attend to the business of the office during his absence, thus obviating the necessity of closing the office to go to dinner. Sec. 26 says that Post Offices shall be kept open during the usual hours of business in the place, and such other hours as may be necessary to receive and dispatch mails. Now, the usual practice in this village, and in fact in most all places where the income of the office is not over \$500, is for all places of business to close for one hour at noon for dinner, and also a short time for tea. Now, am I not obeying the instructions of the law, if I close, as other business men do, for meals? W. H. S. P. M.

Our friend argues ingeniously, but we fear his arguments will hardly "hold water." We have no idea that it was the intention of the regulation quoted above to exclude the hour between 12 and 1 from the "regular hours of business," nor is the post office intended for the sole benefit of "business men," but for the entire public, to many of whom the "dinner hour" presents the most favorable time to visit the post office. We have heard too many complaints from inhabitants of small villages of the inconsideration to them of this practice, to be able to approve of it.

N.—Ind., Oct., 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail.—A friend of mine, lately returned from Ireland, says that a number of packages of newspapers which I mailed to him there, duly prepaid according to P. O. laws, two cents per four ounces, was refused to be delivered at the post office in Liverpool unless full letter postage was paid, because there was more than one paper in an envelope or wrapper. I also sent some catalogues, duly prepaid according to our laws, and they too were charged letter postage. It is the practice in all the post offices in Ireland, it is very hard on correspondents, or it is an imposition that would seem to require looking into. J. P.—Asst. P. M.

The postage paid here on all printed matter for Great Britain and Ireland, is the United States postage only, and there is always a charge made by the British office when such matter reaches its destination. A regulation of the British office provides that letter postage shall be charged on a package containing more than one newspaper or other printed article. When it is desired to send more than one, they should each be enveloped in a separate wrapper (narrow, and open at the ends or sides.) We have nothing to say in regard to the wisdom or justice of these regulations—the case is "out of our parish."

WEST B.—Vt., Oct., 1864.

Ed. U. S. Mail.—I am in the "dark" concerning the "Money Order System." I see that we have three money order offices in this state, and do understand that these are the only ones that can issue such orders? or, are these offices the ones that such orders can be issued on by other smaller offices, and, if in the latter, when are the blank orders to be furnished, and how? Will you please inform in next Mail, and oblige.

Yours very truly, C. M. M., P. M. "Money-Order Offices" (a list of which was published in our last), are the only ones which either issue, or pay money orders. In other words, no money order can be either obtained or paid at any other post office than one designated as a money order office by the Postmaster General. All postmasters, however, should make themselves familiar with the law and instructions in regard to the money order system, both in order that they may be prepared for their new duties in case their offices should hereafter be designated as money order offices, and that they may be able to impart information to the public with regard to the workings of the system.

Editor U. S. Mail.—If it be a proper question for you to consider and answer, I would ask, if it be a violation of the oath taken by a postmaster in making returns of his account current, to the Department, should he deliver unpaid letters without receiving pay at the time, provided he charge the same to himself and render an account to the Department therefor?

The easiest and most proper method by which a postmaster can comply with the law, avoid a violation of his oath, and accommodate the public in this matter, is the following: When delivering unpaid mail matter, if the receiver cannot at the time pay the postage due, the postmaster may, if so disposed, pay it himself. The amount then becomes a private debt due the postmaster from the person for whom he paid it. It is of course optional with the postmaster to adopt this method or not; but unless he does so, he is bound to withhold the delivery of unpaid matter, until the sum due thereon is paid.

S.—Conn., Oct. 14, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail.—Will you please inform me through your columns, if letters received at this office (which bears the name of the town,) can be sent to other offices in the same town, without the charge of three cents for forwarding. I find it customary in offices so circumstanced in this vicinity, to forward without the charge of three cents. Oblige, yours, &c., A. B. R., P. M.

All letters which the neglect or a mistake of the writer makes it necessary to forward to other offices than the one to which they are directed, are chargeable when so forwarded with postage at the same rate as when originally mailed.

POST OFFICE A.—Pa., Oct. 10, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail.—Will you please answer the following questions through the next Mail.

1. In case letters are sent to soldiers, who have been mustered out of service, and return before the letters reach them, may such letters be sent on after their free of postage, or are they to be marked due if unpaid?

2. When return dead letters are received at a post office addressed to persons who have removed, may said letters be forwarded to another Post Office at their request?

Respectfully yours, W. T. M., Asst. P. M. 1. If the soldier has been mustered out of service and discharged, he is no longer a "soldier," and forwarded letters to him should be charged with the postage due thereon. 2. "Return" dead letters may be so forwarded—but "valuable" dead letters cannot. Full information on this subject can be obtained by consulting instruction No. 8, appended to Sec. 8, Act of March, 1863.

UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

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WHOLE No. 51.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

We give below extracts from the Report of the Postmaster General for 1864. Our limited space prevents its publication in full, but we have selected the more important and interesting portions, and shall, perhaps, make further extracts in our next number.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

The postal revenues for the year ending the 30th June last, were \$12,438,253 78, and the expenditure of this department during the same period were \$12,544,786 20, showing an excess of the latter of \$206,532 42. The accompanying Table No. 1. (see Appendix) exhibits the annual postal revenues and expenditures from 1854 to 1864, from which it will be seen that the average annual receipts of this department from 1859 to 1861, inclusive, were \$8,745,282 62, and the average annual expenditures for the same period were \$14,182,098 44, showing an average annual excess of expenditures over receipts of \$5,436,815 82; and the average annual receipts from 1862 to 1864, inclusive, were \$10,871,530 97 and the expenditures \$11,594,783 72, showing an average annual excess of expenditures over receipts of \$723,252 75.

The excess of receipts in 1864, over 1861, the first year of the rebellion, was \$4,086,957 38. Although the proportion of receipts as against the expenditures has, doubtless, been increased, on account of the suspension of the postal service in the insurrectionary States, the above exhibit furnishes the evidence of an improving financial condition of the department, highly creditable to the administration of my immediate predecessor.

The estimate of expenditure for 1864 was fixed at \$13,000,000, in which was included the sum of \$1,000,000, specially appropriated for the overland mail service, being \$355,213 80 more than the amount actually expended.

On the other hand, the revenues of 1864 were estimated at an increase of five per centum on those of 1862, making \$8,714,000, while they actually reached \$12,438,253 78, or \$3,724,253 78 more than the estimate. This increase equals 42 1/2 per cent.

The increase of expenditures in 1864, compared with those of 1863, is 1 1/2 per centum, and the increase in the revenues for the same year, 11 1/2 per cent.

REVENUES AND STAMPED ENVELOPES ISSUED.
During the fiscal year \$34,054,610 postage stamps, of the value of \$10,177,327, 25,644,800 stamped envelopes, amounting to \$765,512 50, and 1,574,500 newspaper wrappers, amounting to \$31,490, were issued. The total value of these issues was \$10,974,329 50, which, compared with the issue of the previous year, (\$10,338,760) shows an increase of \$635,569 50, or about 6 1/2 per cent. The value of the stamps and stamped envelopes sold was \$10,776,589 58, and the amount used in the prepayment of postage was \$9,878,155 61.

Notwithstanding this enormous issue, the losses of stamps in the mails amounted only to \$1,206, and of envelopes to \$31 80. This result may be in part attributed to the system of registering each package of stamps and envelopes mailed, and to the fact that route agents and postmasters at separating offices are also instructed to keep a record of all such packages passing through their offices. During the year 1859 (the year immediately preceding the adoption of this system of registration) the value of postage stamps issued amounted to \$5,273,405, whilst the losses in transit during the last six months of that period were \$4,373. Since that time the losses have decreased, although the issue has increased about 92 per cent.

The number of packages of stamps sent out during the year was 58,500, of stamped envelopes 18,988, and the claims allowed for deficiencies in the number of stamps amounted to only \$29, and in the stamped envelopes 80 cents, showing great care on the part of those intrusted with this branch of the business.

Postage stamps are regularly supplied to the armies of the Potomac and Cumberland, through special agents of the department located at or near the headquarters of each. Since the inauguration of this practice—about the 1st of July last—the agent stationed at City Point, Virginia, has sold stamps amounting to \$23,773 96 and the agent at the army at Chattanooga \$5,210.

ISSUE OF NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS DISCONTINUED.

After the award of the contract for newspaper wrappers, the department was informed that it received a protest from a party in New York claiming to be the patentee of newspaper wrappers, with notice that he should assert his rights. Under these circumstances, and in view of the enormous advance in the contract price of the article, the department decided to discontinue the issue for the present.

TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS.

A table accompanying this Report exhibits the service as it stood on the 30th of June last in the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Kentucky, California, Oregon, Kansas, and the Territories of New Mexico, Utah, Nebraska, Washington, Colorado, Dakota, and Nevada, at which time there were in operation in those States and Territories 5,083 mail routes, the number of contractors being 5,953. The length of these routes was 139,173 miles, and the service as follows, viz:

Railroad, 22,516 miles; steamboat, 7,278 miles; "celebrity," certainty, and security," 109,278 miles—being \$5,818,469 divided as follows, viz: Railroad, 23,301,942 miles of transportation, at \$2,567,044, about 11 cents a mile; steamboat, 2,112,134 at \$253,274, about 12 cents a mile; "celebrity, certainty, and security," 30,901,281 at \$2,998,151, about 9 1/10 cents a mile.

The length of routes was decreased 425 miles, whilst there was an increase in the annual transportation of 89,342 miles, and in the cost of \$77,893.

The aggregate compensation of route agents, local agents, mail messengers, baggage masters in charge of express mails, and agents employed

on steamers conveying mails to southern ports, was \$46,753 48, which, added to the cost of service in operation on 30th June, 1864, (\$5,818,469), makes the total cost of mail transportation at that date \$6,365,222 48.

RAILROAD COMPANIES.

Notwithstanding an express provision of law, (section 29 of act of July 2, 1836,) which provides "that no person whose hire for the transportation of the mail may be accepted shall receive any pay until he shall have executed his contract according to law and the regulations of the department," but few of the railroad companies engaged in carrying mails are under contract; and the practice of recognizing their service from quarter to quarter has been necessary for a series of years, to enable the Auditor to issue orders in favor of the companies for the collection of moneys in the hands of postmasters on the routes, and the adjustment of accounts for services rendered.

Attention has been called to this subject by my predecessors for the purpose of securing additional legislation investing the head of this department with power to compel compliance with the law by prohibiting payments except on executed contracts. The matter is discussed by Postmaster General Holt in his report of December 3, 1863, and again alluded to December 1, 1860, and also by my immediate predecessor in his reports of December 2, 1861, and December 1, 1862; but, believing that the law is sufficiently explicit as it now stands, I do not propose further legislation, in the hope that the several railroad companies will no longer refuse to enter into the obligations assumed by all other persons contracting with the government. Should I be disappointed in this reasonable hope, I shall not fail to call upon Congress for such legislation as the necessities of the service require.

OVERLAND MAILS.

The contract for service on the route from the Mississippi river, via Salt Lake, to Haererville, California, under act of March 2, 1861, expiring on the 30th June, last, an arrangement was made with the same parties for continuing the service on the same route to September 30, 1864.

Under an advertisement dated March 2, 1864, inviting proposals for service from Atobison, Kansas, or St. Joseph, Missouri, to Folsom City, California, John H. Heistand, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was the lowest bidder, at \$750,000 per annum; but his bid having been subsequently withdrawn, contracts have been made with B. N. Hudaday, of New York, for the service between Atobison, or St. Joseph, and Salt Lake City, at \$363,000, and with Wm. B. Dismore, president of the Overland Mail Company, also of New York, from Salt Lake City to Folsom City, at \$385,000, making an aggregate of \$750,000 per annum. The parties are believed to be able to fill their obligations. The contracts are from October 1, and September 1, 1863; the trips to be made in sixteen days eight months in the year, and in twenty days the remaining four months; to convey through letter mails only, mail matter prepaid at letter rates, and all local or way mails.

Owing to Indian depredations, the overland service was much interrupted during the months of August and September last, and for a period of four or five weeks, the whole mail for the Pacific coast and the Territories was necessarily sent by sea from New York.

POSTAL MAPS.

The topographer of the department having been instructed by my predecessor to prepare a set of maps, by States or groups of States, designed to show all the permanent routes, distances, and post offices thereon, in the United States, with other statistical information, I have to communicate that progress has been made in their preparation. It is found, however, that in consequence of the enhanced price of all articles purchased through the contingent fund, chargeable with the expenses, that the fund, as previously estimated, will be insufficient, having regard to other demands upon it; and I therefore recommend that an appropriation of \$10,000 be made for preparing and publishing these maps. It is believed that the proceeds of the sale of such maps will not be needed for the use of this department, but eventually more than reimburse the entire outlay, leaving a surplus which will diminish, to that extent, future appropriations for contingent purposes.

INSPECTION OFFICE.

On the 3d of March, 1864, the Inspection Office of the department, in its distinct and separate form, was abolished, and its duties transferred to the Contract Office, in charge of the Second Assistant Postmaster General.

SPECIAL AGENTS.

By the 17th section of an act of Congress approved July 1, 1864, chapter 197, page 339, it is enacted "that the special agent of the Post Office Department on the Pacific coast shall receive a compensation of five dollars per diem." The salary of this office was \$2,500 per annum under the act of March 2, 1861, and for all travelling and incidental expenses no greater sum than two dollars for each day employed could be allowed under the act of March 3, 1845.

It is not supposed that Congress intended to reduce the pay of this officer from \$2,320 to \$1,825, but such is the effect of the law, and I therefore recommend such a modification of that section as will restore his full salary of \$2,500 per annum, from the date of the passage of said act, and to provide for his actual travelling expenses a sum not exceeding five dollars per diem. Although, at the time of the passage of the said act, two dollars per diem was considered sufficient for the travelling and incidental expenses of these officers, it is now inadequate, and I recommend that all other special agents be allowed a sum not exceeding four dollars per day while employed.

ARMY MAILS.

Inquiry has been made of Lieutenant General Grant relative to the existing arrangements for supplying our armies with mails, with the assurance of my earnest purpose to co-operate with him in carrying into effect any desired improvements of that service; and I am gratified to learn from his reply, that the system of receiving and forwarding mails now in operation is entirely satisfactory; and that "our soldiers receive their mail matter with as much regularity and promptness as is possible for armies in the field, and with perhaps as much celerity and security as the most favored portions of the country." He also informs me that the policy originally

adopted of excluding civilians from the mail service within the lines of the army, and detaching for that duty enlisted men of intelligence and reliability, will be continued.

DELAYS IN DISTRIBUTING POST OFFICES.

For many years the regulations of this department have required that every post office should mail letters direct to every other office not of the route to any distributing office, and that all other letters should be mailed to the first distributing office on the route to their destination, involving considerable expense and delays in the transmission of the mails. This subject has been frequently referred to in the report of this department. Elaborate distribution schemes have been proposed to improve the existing system, which will still be considered defective. The majority of letters are now subjected to delays, while the expense attending the work in twenty-two distributing post offices amounted, during the fourth quarter of 1864, to nearly two hundred thousand dollars, being at the rate of eight hundred thousand dollars per year, or about sixty-two per centum of the whole expense clerk hire in all offices.

RAILWAY POST OFFICES.

The mailing of all letters direct from one office to another, however situated, in so vast a territory as that embraced within the United States, is objectionable. The ordinary distributing post offices not meeting the necessities of the service, experiments have been commenced with railway or travelling post offices. The requisite cars for the purpose are prepared for one daily line between Washington and New York, and by means of clerks taken, temporarily from the post offices at Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York, letters intended for distribution at either of those points are distributed in the cars, or so arranged that they can be despatched without delay on connecting routes. Thus it is found that the transmission of letters is expedited from twelve to twenty-four hours, being the time usually lost in distributing offices. Similar experiments have been made on the routes from Chicago, Illinois, to Clinton, Davenport, and Dubuque, Iowa, with equally satisfactory results.

Attention has been given to the putting in operation the railway distribution to other prominent points, and the companies which have been asked to furnish the necessary car facilities have generally responded favorably. On the great eastern and western routes to Cleveland, as well as between Washington and New York, the size and importance of the mails and the amount of distribution to be done are such as to require accommodations of the extent of an entire car. West of Cleveland only a portion of a car will be used on each route. The order to make the work of railway post offices effectual, a change in the mode of mailing letters is necessary. All offices cannot mail direct, neither can all mail to a railway office. The work will, therefore, be divided between head offices and route offices, the former being those which are the initial or terminal points of routes, and the latter those offices or stations on the line of a road from which there are no post-roads diverging. Additional clerks, as well as superintendents and travelling postmasters, will be required, for whom I recommend provision be made by law.

The introduction of the proposed scheme will necessarily be attended with difficulties, and must be accomplished gradually. The classification of offices alone will require time and labor, and for the present operations will be limited to a few principal railroad lines. Until the necessary classification is completed, and the railway distribution organized, it is anticipated that additional expenses will be involved; but it is hoped that the final effect will be to reduce the expense connected with the present plan of distribution. Under the new law, also, which took effect first of July last, all accounting for paid letters has been dispensed with, thus saving much labor heretofore required in mailing letters and in keeping accounts. The transcripts of mails sent and received under the old system at five of the principal offices amounted to \$0,000 folios. The accounts for the same offices for the quarter ended 30th September last, during which changes were only partially introduced, show a saving in this respect of nearly fifty per cent. Thus in various ways the ordinary expenses of post office are expected to be diminished, so as to compensate for the cost of railway distribution. But, whether this result be fully attained or not, the expedition of mails will be insured.

FOREIGN MAIL SERVICE.

The aggregate postage (sea, inland, and foreign) upon the correspondence exchanged with Great Britain, France, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, and the Netherlands, amounting to \$1,309,605 69, being an increase of \$174,930 48, as compared with the last year, and \$21,458 37 in excess of the largest amount realized in any previous fiscal year. The collections in this country amounted to \$881,730 48, and in Europe to \$517,875 01; excess of collections in the United States \$363,855 47. This result is significant and gratifying, showing a largely increased correspondence with Europe, notwithstanding the civil troubles agitating the country, and the interruption of postal communications with the southern States.

The total postage on the correspondence exchanged with British North American provinces during the year, amounted to \$307,371 39, being an increase of \$81,628 09 over the amount reported last year, and of \$120,518 86 over that for the previous fiscal year. The postage collected in this country amounted to \$168,755 74, and in the provinces to \$138,615 64; excess in favor of the United States \$30,140 10. This extraordinary increase of correspondence is probably partly owing to the fact that large numbers of rebel agents, sympathizers and refugees, have taken up their temporary abode in Canada and the other provinces.

NEGOTIATIONS OF POSTAL CONVENTIONS.

A correspondence has been opened with several of the post departments represented by commissioners at the Paris international postal conference, having for its object the negotiation of postal conventions, on the basis of the Paris resolutions, with those countries on the continent of Europe with which the United States has hitherto sustained no direct postal relation, as well as for the revision and amendment of existing postal conventions, so as to make them conform as nearly as practicable to the liberal principles of postal progress recommended by that conference as the basis of international ar-

rangements. Favorable responses have been received from the several post departments interested in this subject.

APPOINTMENTS.

Including the suspended post offices, the whole number on the 30th June, 1864, was 28,878; of which 19,976 are in the loyal, and 8,902 in the disloyal States. The number of Presidential offices is 705, and 28,173 are under the appointment of the Postmaster General.

During the year, 619 post offices have been established, 78 discontinued, and 211 changes made of names and sites. The number of cases acted upon was 5,579. Four thousand seven hundred and thirteen postmasters have been appointed, of whom 3,028 were to fill vacancies occasioned by resignations; 674 by removals; 259 by death; 133 by change of names and sites; and 519 on establishment of new offices.

Under the provisions of the act approved July 1, 1864, "to establish salaries for postmasters, and for other purposes," the salary of the postmaster of New York, and of the postmasters at offices of the first, second, and third classes, have been fixed as provided by law.

At the close of the fiscal year there were twenty special agents, whose salaries amounted to \$34,100; four hundred and fourteen route agents, receiving \$313,912; fifty-three local agents, \$32,009; and one hundred and five baggage masters in charge of through and express mails \$6,780.

LETTER CARRIERS.

The free delivery of mail matter by carriers has been introduced at sixty-six offices, employing in present, 685 carriers, at an aggregate annual compensation of \$317,061 22.

DEAD LETTERS.

The number of dead letters of every description received and examined during the year was 3,508,825, being an increase of 935,409 over the preceding year, attributable mainly to the return of large numbers of army and navy letters, which it was found impracticable to deliver.

During the year there were registered and remailed to the respective owners, as containing money, 25,752 letters, containing an aggregate of \$31,611 24, of which number 29,059, containing \$104,665 54, were returned to the department, being addressed chiefly to soldiers and sailors, and persons transiently at places of mailing or address.

The number of dead letters containing papers of value, other than money, as deeds, bills of exchange, drafts, checks, &c., received, registered, and returned for delivery to the owners, was 14,436, and the amount realized—the proceeds over the previous year of 4,104, or about fifty per cent, while the increase in the value of the enclosures was but \$71,416 94. The number of these letters delivered was 11,378, or ninety per cent.

During the year 45,380 letters and packages were received, containing photographs, daguerrotypes, and articles of jewelry. Of this number, 29,999 were sent out for delivery, 26,807 of which contained photographs and daguerrotypes, 1,410 articles of jewelry, and 1,982 other miscellaneous articles. Of the whole number sent out, 18,213 were delivered to either the senders or parties interested, the postage on which amounted to \$1,944 20.

In May last a large number of packages containing miscellaneous articles which had been accumulating for several years, were classified and sold at public auction, the proceeds amounting to \$1,175 27.

The number of valuable dead letters registered and sent out for delivery was 68,187, being 23,574 more than the preceding year, and there were returned to the postmaster general, and other public offices, 11,116 letters and packages containing muster rolls, descriptive lists, and soldiers' discharge papers; 65,691 letters containing postage stamps and money in less sums than one dollar, or articles of value not exceeding one dollar in value, were returned to the owners.

A large number of letters addressed to rebel localities have been returned from various sources to the dead letter office, amounting in the aggregate to 31,423, of which number 28,421 were of domestic, and 3,002 of foreign origin. They were all indorsed "mails suspended," and the foreign to the countries in which they originated. Within the past year, 4,256 letters addressed to fictitious persons or firms were sent by postmasters to the dead letter office, and thence returned to writers or senders. The addresses were assumed evidently for the purpose of conducting some fraudulent business, and in many instances these letters were found to contain remittances.

The gross revenue derived from the dead letter postage collected on the letters sent out and delivered amounted to \$23,558 76, out of which were paid the clerks employed in redirecting them. The collection of postage on such returned letters complicates the accounts under the law fixing salaries for postmasters. These letters must be entered at the mailing, and then at the receiving office, and postage collected; and such as cannot be delivered must be credited to the postmaster when sent to the dead letter office. The aim of the department is to have no unpaid letters in the mails, and to collect all revenues by means of postage stamps, avoiding the necessity of keeping accounts. In future, postmasters are to enter in their accounts only unpaid letters, which are mostly from or to foreign countries, and it seems inconsistent to send them daily from this department with instructions to enter them and collect postage. The amount is comparatively small, and yet the attendant labor very considerable. I therefore suggest as a matter for the consideration of Congress, the propriety of restoring prepaid postage to the owners free of postage, especially in view of the fact that a very large proportion go to persons of moderate means.

The number of domestic letters of all descriptions sent out from the dead letter office during the year, was 1,463,993. In addition to these large numbers of letters bearing requests for their return to the writers if unclaimed in specified time, are returned by postmasters without delay, and are returned to their writers, and constant efforts are made to promote this mode of return.

The number of letters returned unopened to foreign countries during the year, was 162,391,

the amount of unpaid postage on which was \$9,161 53. The number received from foreign countries in the same condition, during the same period, was 52,427, and the amount of unpaid postage thereon \$2,088 57.

POSTAL MONEY-ORDER SYSTEM.

The act approved May 17, 1864, authorized the Postmaster General to establish, "under such rules and regulations as he may find expedient and necessary, a uniform money-order system at all post offices which he may deem suitable therefor;" and it further provided that this system should be put into operation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865.

A superintendent and assistant have been appointed, one hundred and forty-one offices have been designated as money-order offices, and the operation of the system commenced on the first instant.

In commencing the money order business, it has been deemed expedient to begin with the largest offices, and extend it to others as rapidly as possible. Measures will also be taken for its introduction in the army.

The establishment of the system in this country will no doubt lead to arrangements for the interchange of international money-orders with the several foreign countries with which we have direct postal relations.

By the eleventh section of the act above referred to, postmasters are prohibited from depositing in any bank money-order funds of which they have the custody. I would respectfully suggest that the business would be facilitated by enabling the postmasters having moneys from this source to deposit in the national banks designated by the Secretary of the Treasury as depositories of the public moneys, to their own credit, and at their risk, and thereby relieve the department from the necessity of furnishing vaults and safes. Substantial advantages would also result to the public interests by permitting all deputy postmasters to deposit in these banks any public moneys in their hands, under like conditions; and I recommend such modification of the law as will authorize such deposits to be made under the direction of the Postmaster General.

Correspondence Wanted.

Unmarried soldiers can obtain lady correspondence, and unmarried ladies can obtain soldier correspondence by addressing as below.

All applications must be made in the party's own hand-writing, and accompanied by their pictures. Also, must be given with precision their age, place of birth, religion, and name in full.

Soldiers must, in addition, state what, if any, bad habits they have, and what their business was before enlisting, and enclose \$2.00.

Everything sent us will be regarded as strictly confidential, and returned, unless the application meets with success, in which case the \$2.00 only will be retained.

The object is to afford our patriotic soldiers encouragement and sympathy. Address, P. O., Box 463, Milwaukee, Wis.

AN ANSWER SENT TO THE ABOVE.

CAMP DOUGLAS, CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 19th, 1864.

I take my pen to answer a rascally and disgraceful advertisement which has come to my hand. I must say that your patriotism shows that your intention is to get a soldier's money, and make a speculation to rob him. Sir, any man that is mean enough to take such a course would not hesitate to rob his neighbour of his daily bread; and, Sir, if I could see you, and perhaps I shall, as my time of service is out next week, I will make an end of your patriotism, and place you among those who are scoundrels belong. Sir Thiel and Rohrer, instead of \$2.00, you shall have my opinion of all such beings as you are. No man, save a copper-head and traitor to his country, and an enemy to all soldiers, would get up such a scheme. Sir, I hope they will draft you, in order that you will get a chance to send your \$2.00, and thus secure the sympathy of acquaintances like yourself. The opinion of the soldiers in this camp, of you, is that you are some old broken down blackleg, and now you want a few green-backs to keep your black heart in motion. Now, sir, take my advice while it is yet time: take a musket, come out bravely, and fight for the country's rights; then, you might persuade me to send you two dollars, for my money is calculated for good purposes, and not for misery.

Sir, I hope you will repent and become a decent man. I will not ask you for an answer, as I do by no means desire to see your hand-writing, not until you change your principles at any rate!

K. LATHAM.
I am a member of Co. H, 15th Reg. V. R. C.

Letter Addresses.

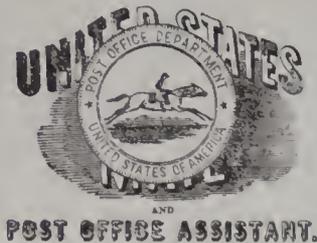
Wait, Uncle Sam, a moment, da! hand. I must say in your mail; I want to take a ride with you—A ride upon a rail!
I'm nothing as a substitute
For David Henry White,
Going don't be convenient suit,
And so he has to write.
I'm bound for James Miller McKeen,
A Philadelphia,
And hope you'll take me on to him
As quickly as you can.
He is an abolitionist
And long and faithful he
Has talked with others who persist
In making bondman free.
He hopes the Unionists will win,
By diligence and care,
And thus keep Honest Abraham in
The Presidential Chair.

Please carry this letter Mr. Post Man, Down to Barren as fast as you can. And when you get there I venture to say, That Miss Mary Jenkins will take it away. But if in ten days no one calls for this letter, Mr. P. M. return it to Ft. Seneca your'd better.

Swift as the dove your course pursue;
Let nought your speed restrain.
Until you reach Fort Clinton through,
And Miss A. P. Miller gain.

Mr. Thomas Cleary Schenck please send this letter to the Widow Mason on the woman you thought the pairs of last year your friend truly Mr. Thomas O'Connell of Albany N. Y. It will be doing me a favor if you do.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK. J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1864.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions or in reference to the business department of this paper should be addressed to 'Publisher U. S. Mail' and not to the Editor.

Official Endorsement. We have received from Postmaster General DENNISON the following letter, which we are permitted to publish:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Oct. 18, 1864. Dear Sir—I have on invitation in adding my endorsement to the use of your paper, as the medium of communication to the Postmasters and others respecting correct information, and cheerfully recommended it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

Postmaster General, To J. Gayler, Esq. Editor U. S. Mail.

The delay in the issue of this month's paper is caused by the necessity of postponing the publication of the Postmaster General's Report until the meeting of Congress.

A single copy of the Mail cannot be relied on for permanent use in rating foreign letters, as the tables are liable to constant changes, in accordance with instructions from the Department.

There are no changes in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

Official.

MONEY-ORDER, CLERE HIRE, STATIONERY, &c. The following circular to the Postmasters at Money-order offices has been issued by the Department.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Money-order Office, Washington, 1864.

You are hereby respectfully instructed to take credit in your Money-order Cash Book, and in the 'Summary of each Weekly Statement,' for the aggregate amount paid by you (if any) during the week an account of clerical services, employed by authority of the Appointment Office of this Department, in transacting the money-order business.

QUARTERLY-MONEY-ORDER EXPENSE ACCOUNT. In addition to entering the above-named money-order expenditures to your credit in the proper Weekly Statement, it will be your further duty to make up and forward at the close of every quarter to this Department a 'Quarterly Money-order Expense Account.' In this account you will first credit yourself with the amount of the commissions to which you may be entitled for transacting the money-order business at your office during the quarter.

The circular should be preserved and carefully followed, all previous instructions which may seem to conflict with it being hereby rescinded.

I am, very respectfully, &c. C. F. MACDONALD, Superintendent Money-order Office.

To the Postmaster at—

The Postmaster General's Report. Copious extracts from this document will be found on our first page, and will of course be attentively read by all our subscribers connected with the postal service.

The financial condition of the Department is shown by this Report to be eminently satisfactory—the excess of expenditures over receipts for the past fiscal year being but little over \$209,000.

The various reforms and improvements in postal matters which have been initiated during the past year are succinctly set forth, and their progress so far shown to be highly satisfactory. Further improvements to some of the details of the Department's operations are referred to as in contemplation, and some additional legislation suggested.

To CORRESPONDENTS—We are obliged to omit several interesting communications this month owing to the pressure on our columns, but we hope to find room for them in our next number.

Death of Thomas Clark.

On the 6th November, Mr. THOMAS CLARK, Superintendent of the Newspaper Department of the New York Post Office, and Superintendent of the mails at that city—also a Special Agent of the Post Office Department—was instantly killed at Calicoon, N. Y., at which place the railroad train on which he was travelling, was thrown from the track by the carelessness of some railway official in charge of a switch. Mr. Clark was well known to many of our readers, and to a great number of others throughout the country, as a genial, frank and courteous gentleman as well as a most efficient and valuable public officer.

Whereas, The removal from among us, by a sudden and violent death, of our esteemed friend and associate, Thomas Clark, an event which seems to us to demand some expression of the sad feelings which its occurrence has caused us to share in common with all who knew him; be it

Resolved, That while we keenly realize the loss which we have sustained by his untimely death, and feel that loss to be one which the contemplation of his many virtues renders the more grievous, we cannot refrain from expressing our appreciation of those qualities which, during his life, won for him our admiration and love, and cause us to mourn his death as a bereavement of no common nature.

Resolved, That the recollection of the kindness and geniality of his disposition, the unswerving fidelity and endurance of his friendship, the manly frankness and generosity of his nature, which were displayed alike in his social and official intercourse with us, while it cannot abate our grief, will ensure the association of his name in our memories, with the estimable qualities which adorned the character of our departed companion and friend.

Resolved, That in the midst of our own sorrow we cannot forget that those who were bonded to the deceased by dearest and closest ties than those of friendship, and respectfully tender to his mother and other relatives our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in the deep affliction in which his death has so suddenly involved them.

Resolved, That the death of Mr. Clark, while bringing sorrow to the hearts of a wide circle of friends, has deprived this post office, and the Department in whose service he first labored, of an officer whose sagacity, promptness and integrity in the performance of his duties were a noble example during his life, and make his death a public loss, as well as a private calamity.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the daily papers of this city, and a copy thereof transmitted to the relatives of the deceased.

In addition to his duties at the New York Office, Mr. Clark was often entrusted by the Department with special and important duties, in the performance of which he justified the confidence which was placed in his intelligence, integrity and judgment, and by none will his loss be more sensibly felt than by his official superiors at Washington, who were also among his warmest personal friends.

Funeral services were held at the Church of the Ascension, New York, on the 10th ult., which were largely attended. Messrs. Geo. W. McLellan and A. N. Zevilly, Second and Third Assistant Postmasters General, Major R. K. Scott, Col. E. L. Childs and Jas. Lawrence, Esq., of the Post Office Department, Postmaster Kelly and ex-Postmaster Wakeman, as well as nearly the entire clerical force of the New York office, and a great number of other friends, were present.

Railroads and the Mails.

Great complaint has for some time existed of vexatious and various delays in the transportation of the mails, caused by the failures of many of the railroad companies throughout the country to run on schedule time, thereby losing important connections and producing the greatest inconvenience to the public and to the government. The evil is now of long standing, and seems of late to have greatly increased, notwithstanding repeated efforts of the Post Office Department to effect a remedy.

Much confusion and embarrassment has been caused by the habit of some railway companies of making changes in their schedule time not only without consultation with, but without notification to the Department.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, November 1, 1864.

SIR: In view of the annoyance to which the Department is subjected by sudden changes in the Time Tables of Railway Companies engaged in the conveyance of the mails, often producing extensive derangements in connections with lateral routes, and causing complaints from communities whose customary facilities are thereby interrupted and thrown into disorder, I feel compelled to call attention to the subject, and to request that hereafter no change be made in the time of the departure and arrival of railroad trains, conveying mails, without previous notice to this Department of such intended change; the notice to be given in time to admit of the issue of instructions to parties conveying the mails allowing ample time for such changes on connecting routes as may be necessary, and to Postmasters at important points of alterations in the hours of opening and closing their offices and mails.

The attention of your Company is respectfully called to this requirement, with the expectation that its propriety will be seen, and that it will be cheerfully complied with.

Respectfully, your obedient servant, W. DENNISON, Postmaster General.

The Rebel Post Office Report.

The report of the rebel Postmaster General, accompanying the late message of Jeff. Davis, has been published in full in the Richmond journals, and it forms rather a striking contrast to that just issued by our own Department. Mr. Reagan, the Postmaster General, begins by apologizing for the imperfect financial report of his department, admitting, as an excuse for the delinquency, that no perfect or even regular communication exists between the Eastern and Trans-Mississippi rebel States.

It is barely possible that some of our delinquent subscribers have been prevented by the excitement consequent upon the late Presidential election, from realizing the fact of their pecuniary indebtedness to the Mail.

We need not apologize for the lack of our usual variety of matter this month—as it will be obvious to our readers that it is caused by the large space necessarily occupied by the Postmaster General's Report and other official matters.

Money Order Offices Arranged by States.

POST OFFICES, NEW HAVEN, CONN., November, 1864.

Ed. Mail.—Dear Sir: My own experience has led me to think that a list of Money-order offices arranged by States, might prove a convenience to the money-order offices throughout the country.

Yours Respectfully, H.

Table listing Money Order Offices by State: MAINE (Bangor, Portland), NEW HAMPSHIRE (Concord, Nashua), VERMONT (Barre, Rutland), MASSACHUSETTS (Boston, Worcester), RHODE ISLAND (Providence), CONNECTICUT (Hartford), NEW YORK (Albany, Buffalo), NEW JERSEY (Newark, Trenton), PENNSYLVANIA (Easton, Philadelphia), DELAWARE (Wilmington), MARYLAND (Annapolis, Baltimore), VIRGINIA (Alexandria, Norfolk), MISSISSIPPI (Vicksburg, Natchez), LOUISIANA (New Orleans), MISSOURI (St. Louis), IOWA (Des Moines, Burlington), KENTUCKY (Lexington, Louisville), TENNESSEE (Chattanooga, Memphis), MISSISSIPPI (Vicksburg, Warren), LOUISIANA (New Orleans), MISSOURI (St. Louis).

continently "go out." Why therefore should terrestrial discipline differ from celestial? I ask this question as a high private, with my chin buried in my capacious white cravat, my body slightly bent forward, my hands crossed behind my back, and my eyes looking over my spectacles.

But enough of fancy, now for a fact. It is a matter of great surprise that many Post Office officials will persist in ignoring in many respects, the plain and carefully prepared instructions of the Department; and in none is such a palpable disobedience manifested as in the postmarking of letters and the cancellation of stamps.

Now it is often of vast importance to know whether the date of the writing and mailing of a letter agree—incalculably injurious results may grow out of a lack of such knowledge—and a limited post office experience should teach as much to heads other than solid ones.

Now this is all wrong, radically wrong, and the erring mortals may thank their stars that I have not the authority to rebuke them officially, else would I do it, and ungloried at that.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Editor U. S. Mail.

I presume I am but one of the many who will thank you for your timely notice to the last number of the "Mail," of the necessity of securing packets for the mail to such a manner that they cannot be by any possibility become loosened.

I am charitable enough to believe that every P. M. knows that a package of letters should be tied up so that it will stay tied.

For one, I think we can hardly afford to lose the services of Mr. Tonson on the old route, and here I think to leave the subject, hoping he will not shorten his letters until he has taken occasion to polish his spectacles and prepare himself for a quiet squint into the way some folks have of stringing their letters, between Boston and Buffalo.

ROCKY AGENTS EXPENSE.—R. R.

Editor U. S. Mail.—An Express Messenger places in my hands a letter properly enclosed in a Government envelope, which he has brought thus far, and did intend to convey to its destination by express; but he now finds that it can go forward sooner by mail.

But I find that at least one of our most prominent Postmasters requires an additional stamp on all such letters deposited at his office before forwarding them.

The law requires that express companies making use of stamped envelopes shall cancel the stamps in such a manner as to prevent the second use of the envelope; and thus, of course, must be done before they pass from the hands of the express companies.

Editor U. S. Mail.—Please answer through your paper the following question for the benefit of the P. M. in general.

There is no law giving officers' letters any special privilege over those of civilians, and none allowing printed matter to either officers, soldiers or sailors to pass or be forwarded in any other manner, or at any other rates, than printed matter to persons not in the army or navy.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AWAY DOWN IN MAINE,
Nov. 11, 1864.
Editor U. S. Mail.—Your description of "Swope's" course, after he received your bill was so sort of *naïve* that I began to sympathize with poor "Swope." I was fool enough to search the list of Post Offices to find "Seacock," to see if the much-abused "Swope" was postmaster.

I came to the conclusion that "Seacock" was a mythical office, and that your particular friend "Swope" might be known near home as Esquire — Be this as it may, I have been considerably amused by your article.

I have received the Mail "seventeen months" more or less, and a spell ago you sent me a bill. Now I could not afford, at this time when so many changes are being introduced in the mail service, to say that "I did not want this thing of a paper," but since reading your unmerciful handling of "Swope"—I will say this—I do not want this thing of a bill in my sight, so here it is and the dollar with it. Trusting you will continue to send your paper, but no more bills at present.

I remain in sympathy with "Swope."

EDGAR HILL.
P. S.—I should have written before, but down here in Maine we have been trying to elect Abraham.

Suppose our correspondent looks among the L's for the office spoken of? Typographical blunders will happen.

PAYMENT OF THE SPECIAL WAR TAX.—Several postmasters have inquired whether the special war tax of 5 per cent on salaries for 1863, is to be retained by them when paying the salaries of clerks, &c. The following is a reply from the Treasury Department to an inquiry of this nature:

TRASURY DEPARTMENT,
Office of Internal Revenue,
Washington, Oct. 7, 1864.

In answer to your letter of the 27th ult., I have to say that the special income tax of the joint resolution of July 4, 1864, is to be collected by the officers of the internal revenue, and is not to be retained by postmasters and discharging officers of the Government. Very respectfully,
E. A. ROLLINS,
Deputy Commissioner

Editor U. S. Mail.
In the July number of the U. S. Mail, I find a notice in reference to "mailing Soldiers' Letters" in packages by themselves. Should such packages include all letters for the Army of the Cumberland as well as Army of the Potomac? Please answer through the columns of your paper, and oblige many.
S. J. D.

No, only such letters as are intended for the Army of the Potomac, or for soldiers stationed near Washington.

Miscellaneous Information.

Army Correspondence.

Letters from all soldiers in the Army, below the rank of a commissioned officer, may be sent through the mails without prepayment, endorsed "Soldier's letter" by a field or staff officer, (or, at detached posts, by the surgeon or chaplain) of the regiment from which they are sent. The same regulation applies to the navy and marine corps, the letter to be endorsed "Sailor's letter," by an officer. In no case are the letters of commissioned officers entitled to this privilege. The postage due on such "soldier's letters" is to be collected at the office of delivery. Prepaid letters for soldiers, addressed to places where their regiments have been stationed, but from which they have been removed, may be forwarded to the new locality with extra postage, and to the address of a soldier's or a sailor's letter arrive at any office unpaid, and yet is properly certified, no extra postage is to be charged—only the ordinary letter rates. **CHROMO TO SOLDIERS.**—Articles of clothing, being manufacturers of wool, cotton or linen, and comprised in a package not exceeding two pounds in weight, addressed to any non-commissioned officer or private, serving in the armies of the United States, may be transmitted in the mails, at the rate of eight cents, to be in all cases prepaid, for every four ounces, or any fraction thereof, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

MAILING SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—In order to insure the prompt and certain delivery of letters and other mail matter, addressed to officers and soldiers, serving in the Army of the Potomac, or stationed near Washington, D. C., the Postmaster General directs that postmasters, in making up their mails, whether for Washington direct, or for distributing offices, shall place all Army letters in packages by themselves, and plainly mark them "Army Letters," so that when such packages arrive in Washington, they may be taken at once to an apartment provided for their reception, without being opened with the mails for the city.

Dead Letters.

By the instructions under the new postal law, UNMAILABLE letters are specified to be—
Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps out of stamped envelopes.
Unpaid letters for foreign countries, on which prepayment is required by the regulations.
Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be ascertained.
Letters misdirected to places where there are no post offices.
Unpaid letters directed to any Executive Department, or to any other therein, and not franked according to law.
Only such letters as are herein described are, when deposited in any post office, to be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office; all others must be dispatched to their destination, if drop letters, (delivered,) charged with double the amount of unpaid postage, according to section 36, of the act of March 3, 1863.
When unmailable letters are sent to this office, the specific reason therefor must be endorsed upon the envelope of each. Under the present law, no letter can be regarded as "held for postage," hence the use of such stamps is improper.
These instructions will be strictly followed at all post offices.

For more full instructions relating to dead letters, advertising letters, &c., examine carefully the 7th and 8th Sections of the act of 3d March, 1863, and the instructions attached thereto.

Congressional Mails.

Under the order of the Department, postmasters are required, in making up letters and papers for Members of Congress, to place them in separate packages, and write distinctly on each package the name of Congress, Washington, D. C., embracing only mail matter for Senators and Representatives. This will enable any distributing office through which they may pass, to place them, without delay, in the "Congress" bags, which, if drop letters, (delivered,) are delivered to the Congressional Messenger, and do not go into the Washington office at all—thus saving the time necessarily required to select out this class of letters at the Washington post office.
These instructions are only applicable to offices which do not bag to Washington, and yet are in the habit of making up direct packages of letters for that city.

Foreign Letters, &c.

RULE FOR RATING LETTERS TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.
The attention of postmasters is particularly called to the mode of rating postage upon letters exchanged in the mails between the country and the United Kingdom, which differs essentially from the United States mode of rating, (when the weight of the packet or letter exceeds one ounce.)
The scale of progression adopted for letters exchanged with the United Kingdom is as follows, viz:—
The rate for a single letter not exceeding 1/2 oz. in weight.
Two rates when over 1/2, but not exceeding 1 ounce.
Four rates when over 1, but not exceeding 2 ounces.

Six rates when over 2, but not exceeding 3 ounces; and so on, charging two additional rates for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.
Thus, a letter to Great Britain, weighing 4 ounces, should be paid \$2.40, being chargeable as five ounces, or ten rates; but if \$2.16 (nine rates only) are paid, owing to an omission to collect the fraction as a full ounce, it then goes as unpaid, and the \$1.16 is lost to the writer of the letter. These letters are treated as wholly unpaid, and the amount paid is lost to the sender.

In no case should 3, 5 or 7 rates be collected upon a letter or packet addressed to the United Kingdom, the proper charges being either 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 rates, &c., according to weight.

Notwithstanding the explicit instructions of the Department on this subject, it is found that many postmasters are in the practice of charging postage upon letters and packets for the United Kingdom according to our domestic scale, (viz: one rate for each full ounce or fraction of half an ounce); and thus insufficient amounts of postage are frequently prepaid, which are entirely lost to the senders, as no account is taken of short payments of postage.

Letters to foreign countries, where prepayment of postage is compulsory, when insufficiently paid are sent to the Dead Letter Office, and are thereby delayed one or two mails, and no doubt, in many cases, causing serious loss and annoyance to the writers.

REGISTERED FOREIGN LETTERS.—Letters can be registered in the United States for Great Britain and Ireland, for Germany, or any part of the German Austroslavic Union, by Bremen, Hamburg, or Prussian closed mails. Letters to Canada, Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward's Island. Postmasters will, therefore, decline to register letters addressed to other foreign countries.

Our Postal Convention with the United Kingdom, provides that each country shall levy and collect its postage only, on newspapers, at the rate of two cents each, whether they are sent or received. Hence, newspapers received in this country from Great Britain come pre-paid with postage only, and postmasters must be particular, in all cases, to collect the United States charge of two cents on their delivery.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS.—Irregularities having arisen in respect to Canadian correspondence, these directions must hereafter be observed:
Letters addressed to Canada must be mailed and post-billed to a United States Exchange Office. Letters cannot be sent direct to Post Offices in Canada.

The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is 10 cents, prepayment optional; but the whole postage must be prepaid in advance. Postpayments are not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

A postmaster may frank a letter to Canada the same as any point in the United States; but it is optional for the Canadian P. O. Department to deliver such letter free, or charge full postage on it, at its pleasure.

COLLECTORS IN COIN.—In pursuance of the provisions of a resolution of Congress, approved March 3d, 1863, all postages due on unpaid letters received from foreign countries in the mails despatched to this country from Great Britain, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen, or Belgium, are collected in gold or silver coin. Should, however, payment of such postage, and of the premium on a corresponding amount of coin, be tendered in United States currency, the same will be accepted in lieu of coin. The amount to be collected in U. S. notes, (in case coin is not offered,) is marked on each letter on its arrival at U. S. Exchange Offices, and is charged in the post-bill. Hence, when coin is collected at the office of delivery, the difference should be entered in the account of Mails Received as an overcharge.

The above applies exclusively to the mails received from the countries mentioned.

ON OUTGOING LETTERS.—The former regulations remain unchanged, and, when prepaid, the regular rates only are to be collected.

MODES OF INDICATING THE PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE UPON LETTERS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

When the United States official postage entries on the letters received from Great Britain or the Continent of Europe, are in red ink, the letter is to be considered as paid, and is to be delivered accordingly; when in black ink, as unpaid, and the postage is to be collected on delivery. The postage on snob letters is either wholly paid, or wholly unpaid. Postmasters can readily decide any question as to prepayment, by this simple criterion.

United States Exchange Offices for Foreign

New York is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian, Belgian, Bremen and Hamburg Mails. Boston is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian and Belgian Mails. Philadelphia is an office of Exchange for British and French Mails. San Francisco is an office of Exchange for British Mails only. Montreal, Detroit, and Chicago, are offices of Exchange for British, Prussian and French Mails. Where packages of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office directed to one address and sent to another, the newspapers received at the latter belong with the postage for a quarter in advance, shall be handed to the postmaster, be shall deliver the same to their respective owners. But this does not apply to weekly newspapers, which circulate free in the country where printed and published.

POST OFFICE BLANKS.

The agencies for supplying postmasters with blanks are as follows:
District No. 1—Supplies blanks for the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address *H. M. O'Connell, Blank Agent, Washington, District of Columbia.*
District No. 2—Supplies blanks for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California and Oregon Territory, and Washington Territory. Postmasters in either of these States or Territories, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "*Bevelly Clarke, Blank Agent, New York.*"
District No. 3—Supplies blanks for the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind should address "*A. F. Lee, Blank Agent, Buffalo, N. Y.*"

When the postage collected at an office amounts to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and of his office will be printed on the post bills. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$1250 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping paper and twine, at the above agencies.
Applications for blank registers of arrival and departure of the mails must be made direct to the "Inspection Office." For special instructions, to the First Assistant Postmaster General.

All postmasters whose compensation is less than \$1250 per quarter, can purchase a reasonable quantity of wrapping paper and twine, provided the net proceeds of the office exceed twenty dollars per year.

SAVES FOR POST OFFICES.

Are allowed by the Department only in special cases, and never to any office, unless there be no surplus commissions. Application to be made to the Appointment Office.

Time Occupied in the Transmission of Letters From Distant Points, to N. Y. City.

From	Days	From	Days
Bangor, Me.	2	Memphis, Tenn.	4
Buffalo, N. Y.	2	Nebraska	6 to 7
Beaufort, N. C.	3 to 4	New Mexico	6 to 7
Boston, N. Y.	4 to 5	N. Louis, Miss.	11 to 13
Concord, N. H.	1	New Orleans, La.	7 to 8
Chicago, Ill.	2	Nashville, Tenn.	3 to 4
Cincinnati, Ohio	2	Newbern, N. C.	3 to 6
California, overland	20	Portland, Me.	1
Colorado Ter.	12 to 15	Portland, Me.	1
Detroit, Mich.	2	Port Royal, S. C.	3 to 6
Dubuque, Iowa	2	Quebec, Can.	2
Denver City, Colo.	2	Rochester, N. Y.	1
Florida, Fla.	7 to 10	St. Paul, Minn.	6 to 6
Indianapolis, Ind.	2	St. Augustine, Fla.	7 to 10
Kansas	7 to 8	Toledo, Ohio	2
Key West, Fla.	7 to 8	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1
Little Rock, Ark.	3	Wash. Terr'y.	4 to 40
Louisville, Ky.	2	Ind. Terr'y.	1
Milwaukee, Wis.	2	Utah	2
Montreal, Can.	2		

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of November:

Post Office.	County.	State.	Rate.
Algodon,	Adair,	Mich.	12,567
Alton,	Adair,	Ky.	9,634
Empire,	Lehrman,	Mich.	Special.
East Ripley,	Chautauque,	N. Y.	1,302
Grand City, (ch. Wm.),	Worth,	Mo.	10,711
Huntington,	Huntington,	Ind.	12,240
Najacena,	Jefferson,	Ky.	Special.
Palley's Mill,	Williamson,	Pa.	11,837
Potter's Corners,	Crawford,	Pa.	2,762
Western Saratoga,	Warren,	Mo.	3,212
West Friendship,	Howard,	Ill.	11,837
Woodside,	Queen,	N. Y.	1,004

* Re-established.

DISCONTINUED.

[In the annexed list will be found added, the names of the offices to which mail matter for those having been discontinued, should be sent.]

Name.	County and State.	Nearest Office.
Aubheenaubee,	Fulton, Ind.	Monroeville, Pulaski Co.
Burdensville,	Monroe, Pa.	Stroudsburg.
Barclay,	Ogle, Ill.	Polo.
Bloomington,	Polk, Iowa.	Des Moines.
Connersville,	Harrison, Ky.	Cynthiana.
Coloma,	Carroll, Mo.	Cyda, Livingston Co.
Economy,	Higland,	Russell, S. D.
St. Louis,	Macomb, Mich.	Mount Clemens.
Fourche A'Re-naul,	Washington, Mo.	Smith City.
Farmer's City,	Pettis, Mo.	Benton.
Sumner's Corner,	Yates, N. Y.	Benton.
Hannah,	Centre, Pa.	Port Matilda.
Hartsville,	Carroll, Ind.	Dolph.
Hardand,	McHenry, Ill.	Woodstock.
Joka,	Jasper, Mo.	Chicago.
Leeper,	Warren, Mo.	Wright City.
Long Lane,	Dallas, Mo.	Buffalo.
Medoc,	Jasper, Mo.	Carthage.
New Columbia,	Owen, Ky.	Owenton.
Pager,	Adair, Iowa.	Harlan, S. D.
Port Royal,	Owen, Ky.	Carthage.
Price's Landing,	Scott, Mo.	Commerce.
Rockport,	Owen, Ky.	Harford.
Sumner,	Madison, Mo.	Warrensburg.
Woodland,	Barren, Ky.	Glasgow.
Whig Valley,	Holt, Mo.	Grabam, Nodaway Co.

NAMES CHANGED.

Newman's Mills, Indiana, Pa., to Grant.
Sumner, Madison, Mo., to New Cambria.
Worrallton, Nemaha, Neb., to Grant.

Presidential Appointments.

Lock Haven, Clinton, Pa., Rufus Reed.
Waupun, Fond du Lac, Wis., Geo. E. Jennings.

Re-opened.

Picolata, St. Johns, Fla., Geo. Cole.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Dover, Iow., Mrs. Barbara Dickey.
Dutch Creek, Washington, Iowa, Mrs. Martha Sewers.
Franklin, Decatur, Iowa, Mrs. Jane Handley.
Hilton, Adair, Iowa, Mrs. Hannah S. Schweers.
Harrison, Washington, Ohio, Mrs. Lydia Young.
Martha, Morrow, Ohio, Mrs. Mary Ann Tweedle.
Mount Morris, Wauasha, Wis., Mrs. Nancy F. Howard.
Ochuka, Miller, Mo., Mrs. Nancy Brown.
Red Bank, Monmouth, N. J., Mrs. Emeline H. Finch.
Schuykill Haven, Schuykill, Pa., Mrs. Amelia Handman.
Wilhaman, Hampden, Mass., Mrs. Hannah E. Hempstead.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

1. TO OR FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MAILS.—Newspapers two cents each without regard to weight; pamphlets weighing over two ounces, and periodicals weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if exceeding two ounces; which is the United States postage only, but pamphlets weighing over two ounces, and periodicals weighing over sixteen ounces, are chargeable with letter postage. Books and all other descriptions of printed matter, are subject to letter rate of postage. Neither printed or bound, pamphlets, catalogues, or other kinds of the British mail, through England, to countries on the Continent of Europe.

2. TO OR FROM FRANCE, ALGERIA, OR IN FRENCH MAIL OR VIA ENGLAND.—Newspapers, periodicals, works, pamphlets, or other kinds of printed matter, catalogues, or other kinds of printed matter addressed to France, Algeria, or cities of Turkey, Syria, and Egypt in French mail, are subject to the same rates as in the British mail, through England, to countries on the Continent of Europe.

3. TO OR FROM THE GERMAN-AUSTRIAN POSTAL UNION IN THE PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL.—Newspapers sent in the Prussian closed mail are chargeable with a postage of six cents each, prepayment compulsory, being in full to destination to any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Newspapers received come fully prepaid at same rate of postage, and are to be delivered without charge. No provision is made for the transmission of other articles of printed matter in the Prussian closed mail, at less than letter rate of postage.

4. TO OR FROM GERMANY, VIA BREMEN OR HAMBURG MAIL.—Newspapers sent from the United States by the Bremen or Hamburg line, three cents each; periodicals, or other kinds of printed matter, sent by the German-Austrian Postal Union, are to be prepaid at the rate of postage, and are to be delivered without charge. No provision is made for the transmission of other articles of printed matter in the Prussian closed mail, at less than letter rate of postage.

5. TO BELGIUM, IN THE UNITED STATES AND BELGIUM CLOSED MAIL.—Newspapers, gazettes, and periodicals: Five cents for each package, the weight of which shall not exceed three ounces, and an additional rate of five cents for each additional weight of three ounces or fraction of three ounces. Prepayment required.

Books, articles, or bound, pamphlets, papers of music, catalogues, prospectuses, advertisements, and notices of various kinds, printed, engraved, lithographed, or autographed.

The above rates are in full of the postage to destination, in like manner similar printed matter received from Belgium, come fully paid, and is to be delivered without charge.

6. TO THE WEST INDIA ISLANDS, (NOT BRITISH), ESTABLISHED IN CENTRAL AMERICA, (EXCEPT ASPINWALL AND PANAMA), AND COUNTRIES ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN, IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MAILS.—Newspapers sent, six cents each; prepayment compulsory. On papers received the rate to be collected is two cents only, the British postage being prepaid.

EXCHANGE OFFICES FOR BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN MAILS.

New York, Boston, Albany, Troy and Portland exchange with some of the largest offices on the other side by through bags. Portland and the Route Agents hence to the Canada line exchange with the Route Agents, beyond and below the changes with Toronto, Hamilton, Queenstown, London and other offices on Lake Erie; Whitehall, Plattsburgh, Rome's Point, N. Y. with St. John's; Burlington and Rutland with St. John's and Montreal; Island Pond with

Montreal, Sherbrook and Route Agents. The following exchange with their nearest corresponding offices on the other side: Black Rock, Sherbrook Bridge, Dover, Lewiston, Youngstown, Rochester, (with Cohang in summer), Cape Vincent, Morrystown, Ogdensburg and Fort Covington, N. Y.; Richford, Franklin, Derby Line, North Troy, Swanton and Canada, Vt.; Sault Ste. Marie, Port Huron, Detroit and Algonac, Mich.; Fort Fairfield, Robinson, Calais, Houlton and Eastport, Me.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid,) excepting those to the President or Vice-President, or members of Congress, or (on official business) to the chiefs of the executive departments of the government, and the heads of bureaus and chief clerks, and others, by way of franking, weight, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, prepayment in money being prohibited.

All drop letters must be prepaid, at the rate of two cents per ball ounce or fraction of a ball ounce by postage stamps. If not prepaid, the double rate is to be charged.

The single rate of postage on all domestic mail letters throughout the United States is three cents per ball ounce, with an additional rate of three cents for each additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce. The ten cent (Pacific) rate is abolished.

RATES OF LETTER POSTAGE BETWEEN OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES, AND TO AND FROM CANADA, AND TO AND FROM CANADA AND NEW BRUNSWICK, 100 PER CENT, RESPECTIVE OF DISTANCE.

To and from other British N. Am. Provinces, for distance not over 500 miles, 15 cts.
For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces, except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing sent in the mail, are to be charged with letter postage by weight.

Photographs on cards, paper, and other flexible material, (not in cases) can be sent at the same rate as regular printed matter—viz: two cents for each four ounces or fraction thereof.

Photographic Albums are chargeable with book postage—four cents for each four ounces, or fraction thereof.

Postmasters are authorized to pay for each letter addressed to the United States by any sea-going vessel from a foreign port, (not carrying the mail) two cents, and for each letter addressed to the United States by any vessel on inland waters, (not carrying the mail), or brought coastwise from one domestic port to another, one cent; but to entitle the carrier to such payment, the letters must be promptly delivered to the post office upon arrival, and the post office where deposited, such letters will be charged with double rates of postage, to be collected at the office of delivery: that is to say, six cents for the single weight if mailed, and four cents the single weight if delivered at the office; but if such letters have been prepaid by United States stamps, at such double rate of postage, no additional charge will be made. If only partly prepaid by stamps, double the unpaid balance will be charged and collected on delivery.

Newspaper Postage.

Postage on Daily Papers to subscribers when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, per quarter, (three months) 35 cts.
Six times per week, " " " " 30 cts.
For Tri-Weekly, " " " " 15 cts.
For Semi-Weekly, " " " " 10 cts.

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS (one copy only) sent by the publisher to actual subscribers within the county where printed and published, free.
POSTAGE IN ADVANCE ON NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS ISSUED LESS FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE A WEEK, sent to actual subscribers in any part of the U. S.:
Semi-monthly, not over 4 oz., 12 cts.
Over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 18 cts.
Monthly, not over 4 oz., 12 cts.
Over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 18 cts.
Quarterly, not over 4 oz., 12 cts.
Over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 18 cts.

Quarterly postage cannot be less than that which would be paid if the subscription begins at any other time than the commencement of an official quarter, the postage received by the p. m. must still be entered in full account for that quarter.

Postage on all newspapers, periodicals, and other publications, sent by mail, at the rate of three months, say four or five months—can pay quarterly postage for the actual term of their subscriptions—that is for one quarter and a third, one quarter and two-thirds, &c., (viz: a third, a quarter, or at least one quarter a postage shall be prepaid, and not more than one year's postage. Any term between one quarter and one year can therefore be prepaid at proportionate rates.

NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND PERIODICALS may send to each other from their respective offices of publication, free of postage, one copy of each publication, and may also send to each actual subscriber, included in their publication, one copy of the same free of postage. They may also state on their respective publications, the date when the subscription expires, to be written or printed.

Religious, Educational and Agricultural Newspapers or small, issued less frequently than once a week, may be sent in packages to one address at the rate of one cent for each package not exceeding one ounce in weight, and an additional charge of one cent is made for each additional four ounces or fraction thereof, the postage to be paid quarterly or yearly in advance.

NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND PERIODICALS sent to regular subscribers at the quarterly rates, in the same manner as publishers, and may also receive them from publishers at subscribers rates. In both cases the postage to be prepaid, either at the office of publication, or at the office of delivery.

Publications issued without disclosing the office of publication, or containing a fictitious statement thereof, must not be forwarded by postmasters unless pre-paid, or unless office at the rate of transient printed matter.

Postage on Transient Printed Matter.

All printed matter (except single copies of newspapers to regular subscribers) sent by Overland Mail, is to be charged letter postage rates.
Books, not over 4 oz. in weight, to one address, 4 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 8 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 12 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 16 cts.

Circulars, not exceeding three in number, to one address, 2 cts.; over three and not over six, 4 cts.; over six and not over nine, 6 cts.; over nine and not exceeding twelve, 8 cts.

ON MISCELLANEOUS MAILABLE MATTER, (embracing all pamphlets, occasional publications, transient newspapers, handbills and posters, book manuscripts and proof sheets, whether corrected or not, maps, prints, engravings, sheet music, blanks, flexible patterns, samples and sample cards, photographic paper, letter envelopes, postal envelopes or wrappers, cards, paper, plain or ornamental, photographic representations, different types, seals, cuttings, bulbs, roots, and scions,) the postage to be prepaid by stamps, is, on one package to one address, not over 4 oz. in weight, 2 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 4 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 6 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 8 cts.

By a recent order of the Postmaster General, the fifth subdivision of the 4th instruction of the new Post Office Law, has been amended by striking out the words "two" and inserting thirty-two "for the word ounces, so that it shall read as follows:—"The weight of packages of seeds, cuttings, roots and scions, to be franked, is limited to thirty-two ounces."

All mail matter not sent at letter rates of postage, embracing books, book manuscripts, proof sheets, and other printed matter, and all other mail matter except stamps, will be so wrapped or enclosed with tags or ends as to enable the postmaster to examine the package without destroying the wrapper, otherwise such packages must be rated with letter postage. No communication, whether in writing or in print, can be sent with any seeds, roots, cuttings or scions, maps, engravings or other matter not printed, except upon the separate payment of postage upon each separate matter at the established rates.

Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be remailed without being chargeable with postage. Weekly newspapers and all other printed matter to the British North American Provinces, although sent from countries bordering on the line, are chargeable with the same rates as when sent to any point in the United States.

All transient matter must be prepaid by stamps. But if it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or short-paid, the unpaid postage must be collected on delivery at double the prepaid rate.

Great neglect exists in the strict quarterly prepayment of postage on printed matter sent to regular subscribers. No such prepayment should be deferred, unless it is either prepaid at the mailing office, or at the delivery office for at least a quarter. If not so prepaid, postmasters must collect postage on each copy as on transient matter. If they fail, they will be charged with the full postage due, and in clear cases removed from office for neglect.

To inclose or conceal a letter or other thing (except bills and receipts for subscription) in, or to write or print anything, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marks or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, other than the name and address of the person to whom it is to be sent, and the date when subscription expires, subjects the package to letter postage.

Mail Bags and Locks.

DEPOSITORIES.—The following post offices are constituted depositories for mail Bags and Locks, viz: Portland and Bangor, Me.; Concord, N. H.; Montpelier and Rutland, Vt.; Boston, Mass.; Providence, R. I.; Hartford and New Haven, Conn.; New York, Albany, Rochester and Buffalo, N. Y.; Trenton, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pitsburgh, Penn.; Baltimore, Md.; Washington, D. C.; Richmond, Wheeling and Abingdon, Va.; Raleigh and Asheville, N. C.; Charleston and Columbia, S. C.; Augusta, Savannah and Columbus, Ga.; Tallahassee, Fla.; Mobile, Montgomery and Huntsville, Ala.; Jackson and N

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. V., No. 4.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1865.

WHOLE No. 52.

(For the U. S. Mail.)

The Old Mail Bag!

Hail, thou tattered and torn Mail-bag!
Each rusty staple and iron clasp,
And even the *look* of thy leather tag,
Bring a crowd of thought within my grasp.
How much of wit and humor and love!
How much of hate's fell sting you've borne!
But never again your power you'll prove,
For now mail-bag, you're tattered and torn,
Tattered and torn.
You've crossed the flashing seas, I trow,
You've scaled the mountains rugged side,
Midst glory's temples you've passed, and thou
And thy youthful scenes are revered wide—
But the great have paid their court to thee.
And the "little ones" have blessed thy name,
For to all you've been a messenger true
Of shadow or sunshine—for him—for fame,
Yet thou—the same!
You've carried the vow—a lover's joy—
The book of life—the scoffer's sneer—
The widow's prayer for her absent boy—
And bitter words and words of cheer.
Boots and bustles—trinkets, toys—
Pipes and penknives—satins—laces—
Aye and the pictures of girls and boys,
They so fair, but the ugly faces
Of the boy's mail-bag.

Then hush thou tattered and torn mail-bag,
Your race of life's already run,
Never to duty were you known to flag
And all the Nations have cried "well done."
For your influence knows no tongues nor clime,
You link the world in a golden chain,
May your power increase with the wheel of time
Till men acknowledge your worth again
For aye, mail bag!

Dec. 1, 1864. Wm. L. KELLY.

Duties of Special Agents.

The following article, from the pen of our lamented predecessor, the late Mr. J. HOLBROOK, on a subject in regard to which he was so well qualified to write, is taken from the work published by him entitled "Ten Years among the Mail Bags." It will be found interesting, and perhaps useful in correcting some erroneous popular impressions concerning the officers to whom it refers:

The institution of Special Agents did not originate in this country. At a comparatively early period it constituted a part of the British postal system, and these Agents are termed "Post-Office Surveyors." This corps of officials has ever been considered by the English Government one of the most important adjuncts of the Post-Office Department.

In the early history of the Department in our own country persons were occasionally employed in cases of emergency, to act as its representatives, and to exercise temporary supervision over some of the various branches of the mail service; but the Special Agent system, as it now exists, was first organized in the year 1840, while the Hon. Amos Kendall was at the head of the Department.

The number of Special Agents in the United States has been gradually increased since their first establishment, and is now eighteen, suitably distributed throughout the country, each one having a district assigned to him as the particular field of his operations, but to act elsewhere if so ordered.

It is not the intention to enter into an argument for the purpose of proving the usefulness of this branch of the Department. If this has not been shown by the facts recorded in the former part of this volume, as well as by the many prominent and familiar cases all over the country, which have been so successfully conducted by other members of the corps, it would be in vain to attempt it now. I would only say a few words respecting the power of this system, to prevent crime.

There are some persons in the world of firm principles and unbending rectitude, who need not the aid of outward circumstances for the maintenance of an upright character. But perhaps the majority of mankind require some external helps in the way of restraints, from public opinion, and even the threatnings of the law. On such the fear of detection frequently acts in a most salutary manner, deterring from the commission of crime, and sometimes leading to a higher motive for right conduct than apprehension of punishment.

In more than one instance, after the conclusion of some important case of depredation, I have been informed that money letters, passing upon other routes than the ones under suspicion, and even at a considerable distance, have been regarded with a reverence never felt for them before. A portly envelope was considered a sort of Trojan horse, filled with the elements of destruction, ready to overwhelm the explorer of its treacherous recesses. This extra ordinary caution was owing, of course, to the knowledge (which often gets out in spite of the most endeavors to prevent it) that the Special Agent was abroad; and when once a person has been thoroughly impressed with the danger of tampering with the forbidden thing, he does not soon nor easily yield to the whisperings of the tempter.

The duties of a Special Agent of the Post-Office Department involve a constant and vigilant supervision of all its interests. This embraces a much wider range of action, and requires much higher qualifications on the part of those who undertake it, than any simply "detective" service. It is believed that neither Congress nor the public generally attach such a degree of importance to the office in question as it really possesses, both in itself and in the estimation of the Department.

This is perhaps owing to the fact that so great a proportion of its duties have of late been connected with the investigation of cases of depredation upon the mails. This has given the corps of Special Agents the apparent character of mere "detective officers," while in truth they are much more than this.

The qualifications which a Special Agent should possess are numerous and diverse; some, indeed, not often found in connection with one

another. A high degree of shrewdness and tact is required, in order to estimate probabilities rightly, and to pursue investigations in such a way as to avoid attracting attention or exciting alarm. And an essential pre-requisite to success is a good knowledge of human nature. To calculate beforehand with correctness what a given person will do under certain circumstances, and thus to anticipate his movements, and make him subservient to the execution of your plans; to vary the mode of approach to suspected persons, according to the combinations of circumstances and the shades of character existing in the case in hand; to do all this, and much more of a like description, demands no small knowledge of the workings of the human mind.

It is comparatively an easy matter to follow up a mail robber when once upon his track, (though there is often nicety even in this,) but to collect the scattered rays of suspicion and conjecture, and to bring them together into one focus, throwing its revealing glare upon the criminal, requires a higher order of intellect than any other operations. And the caution which is always necessary in the conducting of these cases, in order to secure a successful result, is called for not only for the sake of detecting the guilty, but in order that the innocent may not suffer blame.

It often happens that circumstances of the strongest kind indicate the guilt of some person, who, notwithstanding, is entirely free from all connection with the crime. Never, perhaps, is a stronger temptation to hasty and indiscreet procedures offered than by such a state of things. Yet he who is guided by discretion, is not led away by the dazzling hope of immediate success in his investigation, but, aware how fallacious are sometimes the strongest appearances, he considers the question before him with coolness and deliberation, fully conscious of the priceless value of character, and reluctant to make any movement that might unjustly throw a shadow upon it.

From the nature of their employment, Special Agents are constantly brought in contact with the most intelligent and prominent men in the community, who justly expect to find the Post-Office Department represented by men of gentlemanly bearing, fair education, correct deportment, and sound discretion. The absence of any of these qualities, especially of all of them, would lower the standing of the Department with those whose good opinion is most valuable, and would naturally cause speculations on the reasons why persons so deficient in the qualities necessary to make them acceptable to people of discernment, should have been appointed to such a responsible post.

It would hardly be just to hold the Department responsible for the existence of all such evils as there is always danger that the influence and diplomacy of politicians may be used for the purpose of securing to themselves persons who are unfit for them. If the time ever comes when politicians shall act upon truly patriotic principles, then we may reasonably expect that the appointing of subordinate officers of this Department will be left to those in whose power the law has placed it, undisturbed by pressure from without.

The duties of a Special Agent are often made more difficult by the thoughtlessness or curiosity of those whom he meets in the course of his official business. The maintenance of secrecy is absolutely necessary to much success in his plans. It is perfectly obvious that the measures taken to detect a rogue should be concealed from him, and it is generally no less important that he should not know that any one is on his track. The public at large, however, seem to think themselves at liberty to inquire of an Agent all about his plans; where he is going, whom he is in pursuit of, and any other matters that curiosity may suggest. Often have I been saluted, on entering an omnibus or a railroad car, with the question, "What is this man for?" thus making the person to whom I am known to all within hearing, and perhaps to some from whom it were very desirable to keep such knowledge. I received a similar salutation once from a thoughtless acquaintance, in the presence of a delinquent post-office clerk whom I was watching, and to whom I was forewarned.

In country places, also, Agents are often brought to their wit's end for answers to the questions proposed, which shall be satisfactory to the querist, and keep within the bounds of truth. Sometimes they find themselves compelled, in anticipation of this annoying curiosity to take refuge in a mercantile character, inquiring the price of butter, and other "produce." At other times, with parental solicitude, they inform themselves of the comparative merits of different boarding-schools; or they, in pursuance of their own policy, discuss policies of "life insurance." I was once indebted to the system alluded to for my escape from the fangs of an inquisitive landlord. In the investigations of the case then in hand, it was of the utmost importance that the presence of an Agent of the Department, on that route, should not be known. So when mine host commenced his inquiries, I informed him that I had thought of delivering a lecture on life insurance, and asked him whether he supposed that an audience could be got together in the village. He appeared very much interested in the matter, and offered to guarantee at least five hundred hearers for the proposed lecture. One evening, while I was in my room employed in preparing decoy letters, he called upon some errand, and observing me at work among some papers, he said:

"Ah, at work on your lecture, are you? Well, I won't disturb you. We went so far to make some arrangements for the printing of hand-bills, etc.; but the mental illumination which the inhabitants of the village had in prospect was extinguished by my disappearance, accompanied by a culprit whom it was more important to secure than even an audience of five hundred." During the examination of the criminal, my worthy host inquired of me, with a sagacious wink, how "life insurance" business flourished?

It may not be out of place here to allude to an erroneous idea respecting the powers of Special Agents, which prevails to some extent, namely, that the Agents are permitted by the Department to open letters addressed to other persons, where the interests of justice seem to require it. This is contrary to the truth. An Agent has no more power or right than any other person to open letters not belonging to him, for whatever purpose he may wish to do

so. Should he see fit to break a seal, he does it at his own responsibility. The law makes no exceptions in his favor. And the Department cannot confer this power of opening letters, because no such power has been given it. The Post Master General is as accountable to the laws as any private citizen.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

Washington Irving, in his delightful "Tales of the Alhambra," tells of an antiquated nobleman, who temporarily occupied apartments close to him in the deserted wing of the palace, who was such a confirmed sportsman, that he made it his business every morning to take a position on the balconies of that ancient pile, and fire at the swallows which circled in myriads over his head, for the purpose of sharpening his appetite for breakfast, but although his servants reloaded his guns as fast as he emptied them, he was never seen to bring down a bird. It is quite probable, however, that the pure air and the excitement effected the purpose, as well as if a hundred dozen were laid lifeless at his feet. I really admire the display of industry on the part of the old fellow, and congratulate the descendants of the aforesaid swallows on the generous narrow escapes of their ancestors.

Now as I am falling into the sea and Yellow Leaf, too, and am sometimes called a noble fellow, my efforts and the old gunner's are somewhat similar, except that he shot to kill. I shoot to save—he popped away to stimulate his appetite, I to appease mine—he used lead, I use steel; selfishness prompted him, a desire to benefit the human family generally prompts me. To be sure, my quarry is of a superior kind and different style, and under no circumstances to be made game of, and while our pastime—if you please—has been decidedly harmless, I think succeeded in getting up a relish for his maternal rap-stap, and I in infusing a little new life into passive post office people. The parallel ends here, unless we both deserve to be laughed at for our effort. So he it. I raise no more spirits than I can conjure down.

The recent changes in the mode of mailing and transmitting letters, having for its object the diminution of labor and the curtailment of expenses in post offices, shows that the chief of the Department is as careful of the sinews of his subordinates as he is of the pockets of the people, and in no way can a better appreciation of his consideration be manifested than by a determined effort of all hands to faithfully and promptly do the work allotted to them.

There can be no excuse now for delay at the deliveries; no excuse for missing letters; no excuse on the score of being short-handed for the temporary introduction of outsiders to help open the mails; no excuse for giving letters to wrong persons; no excuse for not looking after mail carriers between post offices and railroad stations; no excuse for the slightest carelessness, negligence or ignorance inside offices. In short, under the new system, there will be a superabundance of time to do all the work legitimately thereto belonging in and out doors, and enough left for education, recreation, mastication, deglutition and sleep.

If postmasters are engaged in mercantile or manufacturing pursuits, they will be able to devote at least one-half their time now to their official duties, and there will not be the slightest necessity for keeping persons waiting while a pound of butter is being weighed, a yard of tape measured, or a patent bee-hive tried.

In my wanderings I hear much about the mismanagement of post offices, and in many places the prospect of a change seems to be a source of such gratification to the long afflicted. I have, from time to time, enumerated the causes of complaint, with which all your readers are familiar, and which were known before I called attention to them by the communities who suffered from them; and if any have failed to profit from my broad hints, it is their own fault—and they cannot plead ignorance to save them.

In this letter I will not indulge in any particular censure. The holidays, with their joys and toys, and noisy boys and girls, will and should occupy the minds of all—and nothing should be said or done to mar the general happiness and good-will of every lover of roast goose and turkey among the loyal of the land. But I cannot close without saying that I trust your correspondent from B—— has no desire to get me on a string, when he invites me to polish up my spectacles, and prepare myself for a quiet squint into the way some folks have of stringing their letters between "Boston and Buffalo."

If he is really in earnest, and will furnish me with the proper pass, whereby an unofficial can get an inside view of what he finds fault with, something may come of it. I would forthwith visit the slipshod offices where such child-like carelessness is tolerated, ascertain if the laborers therein could read and write, if they were full limbed or armless, if they had recently heard from Washington in regard to the new mode of doing up packages for the mails, and if answered in the affirmative, I would, in my usual bland manner, suggest that if such baby play did not cease, that grown persons should be substituted who knew enough to tie up such packages which would "stay tied." MONSIEUR TONSON.

Postal Reforms.

DOWN IN DIXIE, Dec. 1, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Congress, at its last session, very properly passed an act reducing the rate of postage on articles of clothing sent to soldiers in the field. Would it not be well to extend the act, so as to permit surgeons or other officers having charge of the effects of deceased soldiers, to send them to friends at home at the rates provided by this law? The express company often affords facilities for accomplishing this; but the mail *always* keeps up with the army and *sometimes* the other does not. Again, soldiers often have surplus clothing which they throw away, because no means of sending it back is at hand unless by paying letter postage. Why should a soldier be taxed one rate in clothing sent to him, and another and a much higher rate on the same should he wish to return it.

A certificate from his Commanding Officers to be endorsed on the package, to the effect that it contains only soldiers' clothing, would guard against frauds. Should the provisions of the act be extended to meet these cases, I know it would give great satisfaction.

Tobacco seems to have become a prime article of necessity in the army. Now, your humble correspondent abominates the use of the weed, and does not wish to be understood as encouraging this great national vice. But so it is—the soldier will have it. He will trade his hat or his shoes for it. The Government (as far as I am aware), has done nothing to supply this want, and as a consequence, the soldier in the victim of the speculating camp follower, who manages by "hook or crook" generally to keep a supply of the Kentucky and Virginia staple, retailing it at enormous prices. The Commissary department should keep tobacco to sell to soldiers at cost; or if that cannot be done, fix a special rate per half pound, and suffer it to pass in the mails. Necessary provisions should be made for properly wrapping and directing these packages, which might be limited to two pounds in weight. Great quantities even now go by this channel to the army, which after paying 96 cents per lb. postage, is cheaper to the soldier than the autler affords it.

While on the subject of postal reforms, may I ask what earthly reason is there for allowing newspapers to pass unpaid through the mail, while letters are required to be prepaid? Our system will never be perfect until *prepayment* shall be required upon every thing—newspapers as well as letters. I am satisfied the Department loses thousands of dollars by the neglect of postmasters to collect promptly the postage on regular papers. As a measure of safety to the Department, it is certainly preferable, for by no means can they suffer should a P. M. be negligent about collecting—(there is nothing to collect)—nor by his failure to *charge himself* with the postage collected, because the account would be kept by stamps which are charged when issued and if used must be paid for.

The editor cannot complain, for he has only to add the postage to his subscription price and his account is square,—the subscriber cannot complain, for if justice is done, he pays both scores anyhow, and this relieves him of the annoyance of having his servant come back (if he live near a *well regulated office*), saying "could not get your paper sir, this is the new quarter—5 cents due—please your honor I was broke entirely." The only difficulty is in stamping the papers: the editor may complain if he is required to do it—but with no better reason than would a bank officer if asking that a P. O. clerk should put stamps upon his letter. The denomination of stamps might be a little awkward—a single paper now costing 5 1/3 of a cent. Fix it at 1 cent copy—issue stamps of that denomination—revive the use of the 1 cent stamp, and we then have everything required on that score.

Where more than one paper is contained in a package, stamps sufficient to cover the number enclosed should be affixed, the number to be endorsed on the wrapper, and the P. M. at the office of delivery be required to verify this by actual count. The mailing offices should postmark these packages as they do letters, so that if insufficient postage be paid, the wrappers may be returned and the proper amount exacted, or upon a repetition of the offence a fine inflicted.

These, my dear Mail, are the crude suggestions I venture to make—possibly some one more skilled than I may be induced to offer something better, and if any good comes of it "so much gained." As ever, O. K.

Mr. ROBERT NASH, church-warden of Oxford, England, has a fine black retriever, who regularly goes to the post office in the village about twenty minutes past seven in the morning, and conveys the letters, newspapers, etc., for his master with unerring precision. The sagacious animal walks straight to the office, and the postmaster, or mistress, places the letters, etc., on the counter, when he seizes them in his mouth and goes to his master's house, and will not deliver them to any one besides Mr. Nash. If he can not find him at once, he searches the house and premises until he succeeds in doing so. This interesting animal invariably goes for his master's house at a walking pace, and returns with his letters, etc., at a bounding trot, thus showing a good example to human letter carriers, which they would do well to follow.

"Quack"

A French gentleman, engaged in the drug business in New York, had occasionally noticed the word "Quack" written in pencil on the envelopes of letters delivered to him by the carrier. Though somewhat at a loss to account for the circumstance, he paid but little heed to it until the frequency of its occurrence satisfied him that it was the work of some enemy employed in the post office, who had adopted that singular method of insulting him. A few weeks since the carrier called as usual, and, having delivered his letters, was about taking his departure, when he was called back by the excited voice of Monsieur:

"Vain! hold on! mistair porteur—carrier: I would some words with you. Vat mean this *coquin*, r-r-rascal, to write 'quack' on my letters, eh? By gar, I no stand him no longer—I shall write to the General Postmaster and demand him to *guillotine*—cut off de head of this *vauxen*—dis blockguard—vat so insult me, Sair, I am not von *charlatan*—quack! I do not pretend myself to be doctor—nevaire. I sell de drugs—*voila tout*—dat is all. *Eh bien*—for vat I am call quack? Is it dat is *pour s'amuser*—for fun—what you call *choke*, eh? Dam! It is no choke, sair. I tell you—here is von, two, tree letter—all with 'quack' write on him—for von, two, tree month, the same thing. *Sacre!* If dat is von choke, it is *joue*—vat you call 'played out'."

"During this ventilation of the long-smothered wrath of the indignant dealer in drugs, the carrier had been examining the letters with a quiet smile on his face, which finally broadened into a laugh. This proceeding of course increased the anger of the insulted gentleman:

"Ah! you laugh to my nose, eh? It is then that you have yourself write 'quack' on my letter—von leetle *choke* of yourself, eh?"

The carrier hastened to assure him that he was not responsible for the offensive epithet.

"*Eh bien*—you can den tell to me vat mean dis—who make dis *choke*?"

"It isn't a joke, sir—it's all right."

"All right! But I tell you it is all wrong. *Je ne le vois pas*—I don't see it. *How* is it 'all right,' sair?"

"Why, you see," said the carrier, struggling with his disposition to laugh—"your letters, when they are sorted, sometimes get into the hands of the wrong carriers, and when that is the case, they write 'Quack' on them, so that they will be given to me to deliver."

"Ah! I see—you have been von quack doctoor, then?"

"No, but my name is *Quackenbush*, and they write my name 'Quack' for short."

"Oh! ah! *Oui oui!* I see him now! *Quack and Boosh*—yes, yes! Ha! ha! it is a name very singular. It is all right—all right, Mistair Quack—Quack and Boosh. Excuse me my anger, if you please. I did tink an insult to me was intended; but it is that you are de quack, not me. *Bon jour*—good bye, Mistair Quackyboosh!"

Letter Addresses.

At E——ville, N. Y., a fat tailor dwells,
On what he lives the Lord only knows;
It can't be on cabbage, for that never swells
E'en a Dutchman's krant belly with much adipose.
That truthful old proverb, by every one known,
That nine tailors are needed to make up a man,
Is slightly endangered by the size he has grown,
And makes him an exception in the general plan.
The name on his sign is T. S.——r. Tador:
His shop is just next to Eli Terwilliger's;
So P. M. hand out when he calls for his mail, or
Forward it up by one of the villagers.
(At the conclusion of that last rhyme, the ink stand busted with a violent explosion and the pen suddenly became a member of the invalid corps.)

To a Mr. Service this letter I write,
And I'll start across the plains to night;
For the over-land mail is now running through
Down the South Platte, and across the Big Blue,
The Sioux, and the Cheyennes, have failed in their plan

To stop the mail of Old Uncle Sam,
And over the plains, and over the mountains go straight,
To the Old Quaker City, and the Keystone State.

Not to London, Paris, Bremen—
Not to Dublin—Glasgow—Cork—
Not to John or Richard Seaman,
But to Rev'd S. A. Seaman,
Twenty-Seventh Street New York—
Eastward let the reckoning be,
House One hundred twenty-three,
Dr. Brown you know your duty,
Do it with a grace and beauty.

The following is the superscription on a letter mailed at the Bridgeport Post Office:
"Now, G. H. C.——, this is the last letter that I shall write, till you try to do better. You promised to marry me and have not yet. But have turned me off for a girl named Sweet. When I come to Newfield, way down in Maine, Perhaps you will try to court me again; but I doubt if you do it—Oh, yes, I'll bet. For you have broken my heart, and taken a Sweet."

Now, Uncle Sammy's Carrier man, please leave this at the door
Of a *Primary* in *Horatio street*, the number *twenty-four*
To Miss *Arabella Lockwood*, who of bright eyes owns a pair,
And also teaches how to shoot, the young ideas found there.
In care of a *Miss Miller*, who, if I'm mistaken not, in *form* is a *known* son, but her surname I've forgot.
But for fear from what's inscribed above, the place you'll hardly find,
I'll merely add, near Hudson Street, in Ward called *number Nine*.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK, J. GAYLER, Editor. NEW YORK JANUARY, 1865.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to Publisher U. S. Mail, and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington Oct. 25, 1864. DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General: Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington Oct. 13, 1864. DEAR SIR,—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT, as a medium of communication, and for the dissemination of information respecting postal operations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—Hereafter, each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail will bear a number in addition to the title. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whose number reaches marked 52, or a lower number will please remit at once.

Changes in Foreign Postages.—By consulting the Table of Foreign Postages on our fourth page, it will be seen that the rates of postage to Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Singapore and Siam, by British mail, have been changed. Letter postage to those points is now 45 cents per half oz. in British mail and South America, and 55 cents per half oz. in British mail to Marseilles.

Postmasters' Salaries.—The Department has completed the classification of Post Offices of the Fourth and Fifth grades, and notifications of the amount of salary assigned to each of those offices will be at once forwarded to such postmasters as have not already received them. The many friends who have written us for information on this subject will please consider their inquiries answered in this paragraph.

COMPENSATION OF SPECIAL AGENTS.—The Postmaster General, in his Annual Report, has recommended to Congress the passage of an act increasing the per diem allowance now made to Special Agents, from two dollars, the present amount, to four dollars. It needs no argument, at this time, to show that two dollars per day for travelling expenses cannot, by the utmost stretch of economy, be made to meet the expenses of a traveller, even though he may be willing to accept the most modest of accommodations and the plainest of fare. We hope for a favorable consideration, by Congress, of Governor Dennison's just and timely recommendation.

MAILS TO SAVANNAH.—The Savannah post office is now in charge of Col. A. H. Markland, Special Agent Post Office Department, and Superintendent of Military Mails, who will soon re-establish regular postal communication between that city and the North.

MUTILATED TREASURY NOTES AND FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.—Postmasters are obliged to receive all Treasury notes for stamps and postage, if clearly genuine, in no matter how torn or defaced they may be, provided one-eighth part thereof is not missing—and fractional currency, if not one-eighth part is missing. Such notes and currency received as are unfit for re-issue should be kept separate and distinct, and returned, as occasion requires, to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, in sums of not less than three dollars, to be exchanged for new.

NO DISCOUNT ON STAMPS.—The Postmaster General has rescinded the instructions to postmasters given under section 9 of the act of July 1, 1864, and no discount will hereafter be allowed to purchasers of postage stamps, or stamped envelopes, in any quantity.

Railway Post Offices.

The new system of distribution of the mails in Railway Post Offices has been elaborated by the Department's officers, and is to be put in operation as speedily as possible. The system is already in operation on several railways as a practical test, and we learn works admirably. The lines in operation are those between Washington and New York; Chicago and Davenport, Iowa; Chicago and Clinton, Iowa; and Chicago and Freeport, Ills. The advantages in expediting letters have been sufficiently tested to justify the hope of a successful issue. The following additional lines, with their dependent connections, are to be put in operation at once, viz: New York to Boston, New York Central, New York and Erie, and thence to Cincinnati, Chicago and west of that city on a number of the most important lines thus forming an unbroken distribution between the seat of government, the commercial metropolis, and the great Northwest. This distribution is to be done while the cars are moving to their destination.

The Department has issued the following circulars to Postmasters in regard to this new system, but they apply to those offices only which are supplied under its operation. Postmasters of offices not reached by the Railway Post Office, either on railway routes or on branching routes, supplied from offices on railway routes, will not yet receive these circulars and should therefore continue to make up and forward mails as directed elsewhere in this paper.

It is not designed to discontinue any special mails now made up between cities or principal towns—through bags to a certain extent with letters for city deliveries, will continue to be exchanged without being opened in the Railway Post Office.

INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS OF HEAD OFFICES. Concerning the Method of Making Up Mails for the Railway Post Office and Route Offices.

NOTE.—ROUTE OFFICES are all post offices situated on railroad routes and other post routes not railroad routes, which are not the offices of supply for offices on any other route. HEAD OFFICES are all post offices on railroad routes from which offices, not on railroad routes, are supplied with mails direct; and also such other offices not on railroad routes which are the initial offices of routes, not railroad routes, from which other offices, not on railroad routes, are supplied with mails direct, as may be hereafter designated. Unless post offices not on railroad routes (whether the initial offices of routes or otherwise) are designated as Head Offices for mail delivery, they are designated as Route Offices in all cases, and must therefore mail direct with each other, unless letters for delivery from them should pass through Head Offices on the proper route to the place of their destination.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Contract Office, Washington, Oct. 13, 1864.

SIR.—The Railway Post Office is constituted the distributing Post Office for mail matter from your office for all other offices, excepting those which are supplied direct from your office, and your office is denominated a Head Office, or, in other words, the Distributing Post Office for mail matter for all offices on routes supplied direct by your office. You will therefore be governed in making up mails for exchange with the Railway Post Office by the following directions:

Letters for offices on all post routes, railroad or otherwise, in your State or other States, (excepting such as are supplied direct from your office), and the Territories, and also for foreign countries, you will mail on the Railway Post Office. Use no wrapping paper, and no twine, on letters mailed on the Railway Post Office, you will omit a post bill altogether. Whatever charges are to be made on account of unpaid postage on letters for office, supplied by the Railway Post Office for delivery, will be made by the Railway Clerk.

The Railway Clerks are instructed to make up in one compact bundle (or more, if necessary) all letters received by them for delivery, and in a separate bundle (or more) all letters for other offices (not on railroad routes) supplied from your office. The package for your delivery you will open and assort in the manner following: The Railway Clerk will post-bill only the unpaid charges on your delivery. The package or packages containing letters for other offices you will open immediately, distribute the same, and mail the letters direct by first outgoing mail, together with twine, as may have been deposited in your office for such offices, post-billing only the unpaid charges for each delivery respectively. If there appear no unpaid charges on letters for any office, omit the post bill altogether. Use no wrapping paper; tie the letters together securely with twine. Care must be taken to see that the outside or facing letter of each package is one legibly directed to the office for which the package is destined.

—has been designated Superintendent of Railway Mail Service for the District of Columbia. You will be governed by his directions. His post office address is—Second Assistant Postmaster General, POSTMASTER AT—

INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS OF ROUTE OFFICES. Concerning the Method of Making Up Mails for Head Offices and other Route Offices.

NOTE.—ROUTE OFFICES are all post offices situated on railroad routes and other post routes not railroad routes, which are not the offices of supply for offices on any other route. HEAD OFFICES are all post offices on railroad routes, from which offices, not on railroad routes, are supplied with mails direct; and also such other offices not on railroad routes which are the initial offices of routes, not railroad routes, from which other offices, not on railroad routes, are supplied with mails direct, as may be hereafter designated. Unless post offices not on railroad routes (whether the initial offices of routes or otherwise) are designated as Head Offices, they are designated as Route Offices in all cases, and must therefore mail direct with each other, unless letters for delivery from them should pass through Head Offices on the proper route to the place of their destination.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Contract Office, Washington, Oct. 13, 1864.

SIR.—Under this new system of railway distribution, your office is classified as a Route Office. The office on the line of railway from which you receive your mails is denominated a Head Office, and it is therefore the Distributing Post Office for all mail matter for your office, and for mail matter deposited in your office for other offices which properly pass through such Head Office on its way to the offices of delivery.

You will therefore be governed by the following instructions: Letters deposited in your office for the mail you will carefully assort; and such as are for offices on your own route, and for offices on contiguous routes, not on railway routes, which should not pass through your Head Office on their way to the offices of delivery, you will mail direct. Use no wrapping paper; only tie the packages securely with twine, and post-bill only the unpaid charges on letters for each delivery respectively. Care must be used to see that the outside or facing letter is one legibly directed to the office for which the package is destined.

Letters deposited in your office for other offices on all other post routes, either for your own State or other States, and the Territories, and for foreign countries, you will mail on your Head Office for distribution. These letters not being for delivery from your Head Office, you will omit a post bill altogether. Whatever charges are to be made on account of unpaid postage will be made on the post bill by the Head Office or the Railway Post Office, which, in the order of business, finally mail direct

for delivery. Packages for a Head Office should enclose letters for delivery from such Head Office and for distribution together, the outside or facing letter being one plainly directed to such Head Office, to indicate the office for which the package is destined; and in case there should be no letter addressed to such Head Office, then a facing slip of paper, with the name of the Head Office for which the package is intended for distribution, plainly written, must be carefully and securely tied with the package, using no wrapping paper.

This new system will be extended by degrees. You will readily know the Head Office supplying your office by observing that the packages are made up by such Head Office for your office, in conformity with instructions issued to the postmaster thereof, which are substantially the same as these instructions to you. When the system is introduced on all railway routes, any office on any railway route supplying your office with mails (if you receive mails through offices on different railway routes) will be a Head Office for mail matter for your office, and for mail matter deposited in your office for all other offices not supplied direct.

You will please understand that it is indispensably necessary to follow the above instructions in order to carry out the design of the Department. You will be governed by his directions. His post office address is—Second Assistant Postmaster General, POSTMASTER AT—

The New Blanks

The new forms of blanks for "mails sent" and "mails received" were prepared in view of an entire change in the method of distributing and mailing letters throughout the country. The official instructions published elsewhere in this paper explain the proposed changes which, for the present, are restricted to routes where the railway post offices are either in practical operation or to be introduced hereafter, and to branching routes supplied through them, embracing several thousand offices. It is understood to be the intention of the Department to extend this system gradually. Much time will necessarily be consumed in classifying "Head Offices" and "Route Offices," and until this is done, and postmasters notified by the Department or by the Superintendents of Railway Post Offices of their assignment to these classes respectively, postmasters will continue to make up and forward mails, as instructed in Chapter IV. of Regulations of 1859, omitting, however, post bills, except in the case of unpaid postages for delivery only and registered letters (as authorized by the instructions based on the law approved July 1st, 1864).

When postmasters are notified by the Department, or by the Superintendent of Railway Post Offices, that their offices have been classified as "Head Offices" or "Route Offices," as the case may be, the new blanks issued are designed for their use. The offices to which they will mail direct will be limited and unvarying in number. The blanks should be headed at the beginning of each month with the name of the office to which mails are sent and from which mails are received. At the close of each month the sum total of unpaid postage appears in the footing of those columns—both sent and received, and from the respective offices which interchange mails direct; hence one office is a complete check on the other, and the verification of accounts in the Auditor's Office for the Post Office Department is greatly simplified. Postmasters not thus formally notified by the circulars referred to, of their assignment to the classes named, will continue to use the old blanks for mails sent and received or the new blanks (if they have been supplied with them) entering on them as in the old blanks, the offices to which mails are sent or from which received in the left hand marginal column, and the unpaid postages, only, in the parallel adjoining column.

We are officially authorized to make this statement.

We are in receipt of a number of inquiries respecting the proper use of the new blanks which have been furnished by the Department. Although the instructions and notes which accompany the blanks, seem to us to give all the information needed on most of the points referred to by our correspondents, we give below some of these questions with replies:

1.—How shall a postmaster get credit in his quarterly account for the unpaid postage on letters which reach him from another office, and which he forwards by request to a third office? By crediting himself with the amounts under article 10 of the Quarterly Account Current.

2.—Is stationery included in the contingent expenses?—also, how shall a postmaster procure wrapping paper and twine from the contractors? Stationery is not included in the contingent expenses which may be credited in the Quarterly Account. The articles comprised in this item are enumerated in the instructions referring to Article 27. At offices where the compensation amounts to \$50 per annum, wrapping paper and twine must be ordered from the Blank Agents. See article headed "Post Office Blanks," on our third page, for the names and districts of these agents.

3.—Are there any post-bills now issued other than those headed "Unpaid Letters"? Suppose a letter is part paid, should a postmaster use the "Unpaid" post-bill? There are now no other post-bills issued than those referred to. They are to be used when sending part-paid letters—the amount of postage due being entered under the head of "Statement by Mailing Postmaster." It will be remembered that on a part paid letter double rates are in charge on the unpaid portion.

4.—Are the blanks marked 1, at the head of the columns on the "Monthly Sheets" of "Mails Sent" and "Mails Received," to be filled in with the names of all offices to which letters are sent or from which they are received? They are to be filled up with the names of all offices to which unpaid, part paid or registered letters are sent, or from which they are received.

5.—The instructions in the foot of the sheets of "Mails Sent" and "Mails Received," say that "all registered letters sent or received" will be entered in the columns headed "Regd.," giving the number of such letters." Does this mean the registered number? No. It means that if one registered letter is sent or received, the figure 1 should be inserted in the "Regd." column; if two letters, the figure, 2, &c.

Depredation Cases.

C. T. JAMESON, late postmaster at Ft. Kearny, was, 20th November, convicted of the embezzlement of money from registered letters passing through his office in the overland mail. The arrest was made by Special Agent Leonard. He was sentenced to ten years' close confinement in the Detroit House of Correction.

ERRORS IN POST OFFICE BLANKS. Postmasters will notice that in the printed instructions at the bottom of some copies of the new blank for "ACCOUNT OF MAILED RECEIVED," the first and second lines read thus:

1.—The blanks designated (1) at the head of this sheet are to be filled with the names of the offices to which mails are sent," &c.

1.—The blanks designated (1) at the head of this sheet are to be filled with the names of the offices from which mails are received," &c.

Also at the head of the same blank, Accounts of Mails Received, in the first column over the word "date" is printed the word "to"—it should have been printed "from" if postmasters who have received any of the blanks in which these mistakes occur will note these corrections, all chance of error will be avoided.

SIGNATURE POST BILLS. Postmasters whose gross receipts do not exceed \$100 per annum, and therefore are not entitled to Signature Bills, are informed that they will be furnished with 1800 of the new form of post bills for "Unpaid Letters" on one side and "Registered Letters" on the other, with name of office and signature on both sides, by enclosing one dollar at their risk, addressed "To the Printer of Post Office Blanks," NEW YORK.

N. B.—The name of the postmaster should be very plainly written, that it may be printed correctly.

We must apologize to those of our new subscribers who, ordering their subscriptions to commence at various designated back numbers, have not received all of them. The fact is that within the past few months we have been favored with so many new subscribers, that the extra editions which we had printed in anticipation of such orders have been exhausted. We have none now of earlier date than December, and the numbers for that month are nearly used up. We shall endeavor in future to keep a larger supply of back numbers.

MARKING AND RATING STAMPS. Sec. 412 and 412a, (page 120), Post Office Department Regulations, has been so changed that all post offices yielding (gross) \$75 or more per annum, are entitled to receive marking and rating stamps, from the Department free of charge, on application to the First Assistant Postmaster General.

Mr. Geo. B. Armstrong, assistant postmaster at Chicago, has been appointed Special Agent of the Post Office Department, to superintend the Railway Post Offices in the West.

Mr. C. E. WHEELER, of Cleveland, has been also appointed Special Agent for the same purpose in the East.

The dividing line between East and West is the eastern boundary line of Indiana.

In reply to an inquiry by Route Agent Samuel W. Clarke, of the Hartford, Providence, and Fishkill Railroad, Mr. Zevely writes under date of November 16, 1864, as follows:—

The instructions issued to postmasters to dispense with wrapping mail packets did not contemplate that the letters were to be thrown promiscuously into the pouch, but that in cases where several letters were found for one place, one of these which was addressed most distinctly should be placed on the top, and the package securely tied, omitting the wrapper. Where but a single letter for any place is found, or where the address is imperfect or indistinct, the letter or letters should be wrapped and addressed as heretofore.

A general compliance with the spirit of this letter will prove a great assistance to route agents and separating offices in the discharge of their duties.

In the English post office a letter containing coin cannot be sent by mail, unless as a registered letter. If one is detected among ordinary letters by the sorters, it is at once registered, and a double fee charged on delivery.

Some of our subscribers have written to us to ascertain how they can procure a copy of the last published list of post offices. The book can be obtained of J. H. Cotton, 172 William st., New York, and the price, we believe, is \$1.50.

THE THREE-CENT CURRENCY.—Postmasters who complain of the scarcity of cents for supplying change, will be glad to know that the new three cent fractional currency will soon be issued by the Secretary of the Treasury.

COMMUNICATIONS.

S—MICH.

Editor U. S. Mail.—1. Will there be a published list of the salaries of offices and the salaries assigned?

2d. What is the best preparation of block or stamping apparatus for giving a clear and uniform impression on letters, and is the use of a cancelling stamp imperative, if there is a plain black impression of the post mark?

3d. Suppose a Canada letter—unpaid—arrives at this office, the person to whom it is addressed has removed to Detroit—requesting his name to be forwarded. The 10 cents is charged to this office, but uncollected. I email that letter, charging Detroit with it—10 cents, and 3 cents for forwarding. As I understand it, this office is obliged to pay the 10 cents to the government without having received it. And is it again paid at Detroit by the receiver of the letter? Will you explain this?

4th. Under the heading "Miscellaneous Information," you have a paragraph regarding postage on transient papers from Great Britain, requiring two cents on each paper. Is Canada in the same category? H. H. B. Asst. P. M.

ANSWERS.—1. It is not likely, at least for the present. All offices are now salaried offices,

and each P. M. will be notified by the Department of the amount of salary assigned to him. 2. Three or four thicknesses of cloth, securely fastened to a block of wood, and with the ink evenly distributed over it. The use of a cancelling stamp is imperative.

3. By a careful reading of the instructions printed on the back of the account current, our correspondent will find that the 10 cents postage should be credited to himself as an overcharge in Article 10 of that account. See also second column of "Account of Undercharges, Overcharges, and Amount of Postages Received in Money," and note (b) appended.

4. Yes. On newspapers received from Canada the U. S. postage (2 cents per four oz. or fraction thereof) should always be collected, as only the Canadian postage can be prepaid in Canada.

POST OFFICE P—Ohio, Dec. 21, 1864.

Editor U. S. Mail.—Will you be so kind as to give your views in your next issue on the following subject: This is a fourth class office which will be entitled to a salary of about one hundred dollars per annum. We have 6 mills per week but no arrivals on Sunday; and it seems to have been the practice for years at this office to deliver mail matter on the Sabbath at all hours in the day, and to such an extent has this habit become, that mail is now called for on that day than any other day in the week. Indeed, many call on that day, and are rarely ever seen at the office on other days, and any of these I am sorry to say, are professed Christians. Now, sir, what would be the duty of a Postmaster under these circumstances, who is alike desirous to extend all due courtesies to his patrons, and also to enjoy a little rest that might seem justly due to one of over three score years? Respectfully yours, B. P. P. M.

When no mail arrives on Sunday, the Regulations do not call for the opening of the office on that day. In the case above referred to it would be well for the P. M. to post a notice in the office after a certain date the practice of opening the office for delivery on Sundays will be discontinued.

VERMONT.—Editor of U. S. Mail:—I suppose you allow postmasters to question in reference to post office business of general interest. I wish to know whether all unpaid foreign letters should be rated in currency with gold premiums added, or whether an exception is made in favor of Canada letters? All such letters are rated with premium, while Canada letters, received from Burlington D. P. O., are without premium. Is it right or an error of that office? I do not wish this to appear as a complaint from my office, only wish an answer in a general way for my enlightenment, and perhaps that of others. C. H. R. P. M.

In replying to this correspondent, we will avail ourselves of the opportunity of saying to all our friends who have written to us on the subject of the collection in coin or its equivalent of unpaid postage on foreign letters:

1st.—That the law on this subject refers only to letters received from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Prussia, Hanburg, Bremen and Belgium. "C. H. R." will therefore understand that unpaid letters from Canada are to be charged 10 cents per half ounce in ordinary currency.

2d.—That there should be no charge beyond the regular rate of postage, (which must, if prepaid, be prepaid by U. S. stamps) on letters mailed here for foreign countries.

3d.—That the amount, in coin, and also its equivalent in currency, to be collected on unpaid foreign letters arriving here, is stamped on each of such letters at the U. S. office at which it is originally received. When sent thence to another office for delivery, the postmaster there will collect the amount so stamped in currency, or the regular postage in coin. Thus, an unpaid letter received at New York from London, addressed to New Haven, would be marked at the New York office "24," and also (if coin, on the day of its arrival, were at 100 per cent. premium) "48." On its arrival at New Haven, the person to whom it is addressed can pay 24 cents in coin, or 48 cents in currency, at his option.

R—Vt. Editor U. S. Mail:—Several publishers of daily papers are in the habit of sending them to this office in sheets as they come from the press, leaving them for me to fold before I can distribute them in the boxes. It takes me about ten minutes each time. What shall I do, under the circumstances? I am willing to do more than is required of me, but this seems to be spreading it on rather thick. Respectfully, P. M.

We agree with our correspondent that the practice complained of is entirely unjustifiable. In our opinion, the publishers referred to would have no right to complain if their subscribers should be obliged to wait for their papers until the P. M. could find time, without interfering with his regular duties, (among which folding newspapers is not included) to deliver the papers in as convenient a manner as possible under the circumstances. We think that a remonstrance addressed by the P. M. to the publishers might lead to a remedy, as the fault may lie with some of his subordinates. P. O. P.—ILL. Editor U. S. Mail.—There is an "attorney" in this town, doing a big business in the "War Claim" line, and who is in the habit of franking his letters. For instance, he mailed one to-day, addressed as follows: Official Business, U. S. C. Agent, FRANK, Ill. Hon. E. B. French, 2d Aud. Treasury Dept., Washington, D. C. Will you please tell me whether, as he claims, he has the right to frank such letters? H. N. P. M. If the attorney's letters to Mr. French are on official business, they are entitled to pass free without a frank. The last law of Congress in relation to the franking privilege, provides that all official letters, of whatever origin, addressed the heads of departments or bureaus, or to persons otherwise authorized to frank official matter, shall pass free in the mails without the endorsement of "official business" or the name of the writer.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Vol. V., No. 5.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1865.

WHOLE No. 53.

(Original.)

THE FATAL CONTRACT.

A STORY FOR P. O. CLERKS.

On a sultry afternoon in August, I sat at the delivery window of the post office of B—, where I have the honor to officiate as Deputy Postmaster, lazily resting my chin on my hands, and gazing with curious looks upon some cattle who, at the distance of a few rods, were standing immersed to the neck in a cool brook, beneath the shade of a large willow. The one street of our village was entirely deserted, the oppressive heat forcing even the most inveterate gadabouts to remain within doors till sunset; and for more than an hour not a soul had approached the window, to buy a stamp or to ask, for the fifth time, for a letter which they knew had never been written. I was just congratulating myself upon this fact, when the sound of approaching footsteps fell upon my ear, and in another moment Mrs. Moloney presented herself at the window.

"Have ye ever a letter from me could man?"
"Not yet, Mrs. Moloney."
"And are ye sure of that same?"
"Sure."
"An' would ye be after sarchin', if ye please, Mither Postmaster? Sure I see one forminst ye that looks for all the world like Tim's."

I performed the required "sarchin'," but the wished for letter was not there, and the one "forminst" me was addressed to the Baptist clergyman.
"An' what time will I be gettin' a letter, sir?"
"Can't say, Mrs. Moloney."
"Ye can't say! divil mend your manners—ye can't say! the likes o' you settin' up for a postmaster, and can't tell a poor soldier's grass widdy when she'll be gettin' a letter! sure my ould cow'd make a better postmaster than yer own ugly self, forbye Mither Higgins that they turned out to make room for ye—bad luck to the day they did it!" and the irate matron departed, promising to call again soon, and leaving behind her a fine odor of "potheen."

This was a fair sample of interviews which took place daily, and sometimes oftener, between myself and Mrs. Moloney. Her spouse, Tim, had calisted about a year before—argued to his wife, not so much by his love for his adopted country as by a desire to get beyond the reach of the sharp and active tongue of his better half. It was even said that when he presented himself at the recruiting office his countenance bore the marks of the visitation of a poker wielded by her fair hands while "under the influence." Be that as it may, Tim enlisted and was soon off to the war, leaving the most of his bounty money to his wife to console her for his departure—in consequence of which liberality Mrs. M. was for some months in a state of chronic inebriety. The fad finally became exhausted, however, and she was thrown upon her own resources for the means of satisfying her penchant for her favorite stimulant. The scanty income which she was able to receive by "going out (when sober enough) to day's work" would not admit of a very extensive indulgence in that line; and her absent lord naturally presented himself to her mind as the most convenient and natural source of the supplies she needed. To him, therefore, she had appealed, and many a letter I had mailed for her bearing Tim's address, and which, I suspect, contained appeals more urgent than truthful, for pecuniary assistance. That warrior, however, was either too much occupied with his legitimate occupation of fighting rebels to spare the time necessary for a reply to those epistles, or did not consider it judicious to accede to the requests of his spouse. Whatever the cause, it is certain that her letters failed to elicit any replies which reached the post office at B—; and of course Mrs. Moloney, after the manner of her kind, attributed this fact to some mysterious "hitch" in the machinery of the postal system, and in the meantime failed not to make daily, and almost hourly, calls on me for the hoped for letter containing a portion of Tim's hard-earned pay. I need not say to any of my brother-officials who may read this, that she had become a bore of the first water, and that I was often tempted to reply to her oft-repeated and not always complimentary remarks, in a manner more energetic than polite.

On this occasion, the temptation was peculiarly strong—though I successfully resisted it; for, to tell the truth, I was not in an especially amiable frame of mind just then. The night before, I had foolishly quarrelled again with a certain Nellie Parker, (so I will call her,) because she had again declined to give me the name of the writer of sundry letters, bearing the "Old Point Comfort" postmark, and occasionally endorsed "soldier's letter," which had arrived with great frequency of late to her address, and which I had delivered to her in my official capacity. "Post office folks shouldn't trouble themselves about the inside of letters," she had told me, with a toss of her pretty curls—and so, "one word led to another," until I had had her a stiff good night, which both of us understood as a final leave-taking. The reflections which came with morning did not tend

to increase my satisfaction with things in general; and to make matters worse, another of those odious letters from Miss Nellie's mysterious correspondent had arrived, and I should be obliged to deliver it to her when she made her usual afternoon call at the post office. After Mrs. Moloney's departure, I fell to meditating, and was soon in a brown study—thinking, all at the same time, how desirable it would be, firstly, to ascertain just who that military gentleman might be who employed so much of his time in writing to the lady whom I had (alas!) hoped to make Mrs. Deputy Postmaster; secondly, to know precisely what he wrote; and, thirdly, to devise some plan by which there should always be a letter in the office for everybody who called for one.

The consideration of these three subjects, on so warm an afternoon, was beginning to weary me, when my reflections were again interrupted by the too-familiar brogue of my tormentor:—
"Have ye iver a letter for Mrs. Tim. Moloney?"
It was certainly Mrs. Moloney's voice; but on looking up, I perceived to my surprise, that it was a stranger who had given it utterance. And a most remarkable-looking stranger he was. In defiance of the scorching heat he was attired in the heaviest and longest of overcoats, a fur collar enveloped his neck, and a pair of the longest fur gauntlets were on his hands. His complexion was brilliant—not to say fiery—but yet he had somehow the air of one who was suffering from cold. A sardonic smile passed over his countenance as he saw the astonishment depicted in mine, and he repeated (again in Mrs. Moloney's voice) his question.

"No, sir," said I, at last.
"Would ye be after sarchin', if ye please?" continued the gentleman once more in the accents of Mrs. M.
In a state of semi-stupefaction, I turned to comply with his request—when lo! at the very top of the pile of letters in the very box which I had just carefully searched—there was a letter, plainly addressed to me, and which I thought you would succeed in finding it this time," said my visitor—this time in the most undefiled of English; "I will hand it to Mrs. M. as I pass her modest cottage. And now, may I ask if you have also a letter for my friend Mr. Davis?"

"Mr. Jacob Davis, the butcher, sir?"
"Well, no; he's not exactly a butcher, sir—that is, he's a—in fact, I mean Mr. Jefferson Davis. Have you a letter for him?"
"Certainly not, sir," said I, with some asperity; for I thought I perceived a disposition to trifle with me.
"Will you oblige me by taking the trouble to search, sir?" said my strange interlocutor, with an insinuating smile.

"Evidently a lunatic," thought I; "but it's best perhaps to humor him." And turning to the "D box" in my letter-case, what was my horror to encounter at once a long, official-looking envelope, bearing the address and pseudo title of the arch rebel himself! I stared in blank surprise, as I handed it to the stranger.
"Thank you, sir. I'll see Mr. D. before long, and will be sure to give it to him," said the stranger, with a disagreeable kind of chuckle; "and if you have one for my friend Judah P. Benjamin, I may as well take that, too. Will you be kind enough to look, sir?"
My hand mechanically sought the "B" box—the letter for the head of the rebel Treasury Department was there! The stranger took it; and then, calling over in succession the names of a dozen prominent members of the "Confederacy," demanded a letter for each—which I found at once and delivered to him. I began to feel a strange sensation of dread as he stood there politely thanking me, with the same unpleasant smile on his features, as he received each letter. At last he called the name of one for whom it was impossible there could be a letter—for he had been dead half a century and more:

"One for Benedict Arnold?"
"I beg your pardon, sir—for whom, did you say?"
"BENEDICT ARNOLD, sir!"
"But there must be some mistake, sir. Benedict Arnold is —"
"Dead—I know it, sir; and I expect a dead letter for him—ha! ha!"
I looked—and there it was—an old—very old letter—a folded sheet, without envelope—the superscription turned brown with age—bearing a large red seal, and a post-mark which resembled "West Point" as much as anything else.
I began to tremble at this, and dark suspicions of the character of the oddly-attired stranger entered my brain. I was doubtful as to the propriety of giving the letter to his charge. He saw my hesitation at once.
"Oh, it's entirely correct, sir, I assure you. General Arnold lives with me!"
"Lives—with you? Lives —" I gasped, aow terrified in earnest—then who—who the devil—"
"Sir! You are forgetting your good manners. Be good enough not to treat me—that is, a gentleman's—name with so much familiarity."

"I ask your pardon, sir; but, really, your conduct and remarks are unusual, you must admit. I should be glad if you would explain—"

"Oh, by all means—with great pleasure, sir—if you will just allow me to step inside the office for a moment."
I hesitated again. What should I do? It was clearly against the "regulations", to admit a stranger within the official precinct; but then the circumstances were so extraordinary—that a slight departure, for just this once, from a straight line of duty, seemed pardonable. I wavered a moment longer and then—yielded to the temptation. Let the dread consequences be a warning to all who may be urged to do the like!

The stranger entered, and I invited him to be seated. He placed a chair close to the stove; but perceiving that it was destitute of warmth, he moved away from it in apparent disgust, and pulling his fur collar over his ears, said, somewhat peevishly, "No fire, eh?"
"Fire! with the thermometer at a hundred and two!" exclaimed I; "who can need a fire on a day like this?"
"I do. I'm half frozen; but never mind that, now. Let's proceed to business. In the first place—"

"In the first place, sir, will you oblige me by telling me your name?"
"My name? Oh, I have several names, all at your service. But I see a letter in your 'B' box there, which looks as though it might be addressed to one of them. Just ascertain if it is, won't you?"
I stepped to the letter-case, and did as he desired. The top letter bore in flaming red characters the name of "BEZELBUB!" As I held it, it suddenly grew red-hot, and I flung it towards him. Catching it dexterously, he placed it in his pocket with a laugh. I tried to escape by the door, but found I could not stir an inch. I endeavored to shriek for help, but my tongue clave to the roof of my mouth. My dreadful amazingly, and sat laughing loudly for some minutes. At length he waved his hand with a singular motion, and I found my powers of speech and action restored. He motioned me to a seat, into which I staggered.

"Don't be alarmed, my young friend," said he; "there's not the least danger, I assure you. I don't intend you the slightest harm, upon my honor. In fact, my only object in calling on you is to render you a great service."
"In what way?" I at length found breath to inquire.
"I will explain in a moment. In the meantime, let me beg you to be calm, and direct your mind of those childish superstitions concerning me which you have doubtless heretofore entertained in common with the rest of mankind. All nonsense, sir, I assure you. I'm not half so black as I'm painted. Now, I have a fair proposition to make, if you are ready to hear it."

The plausible, insinuating manner of the highly respectable-looking demon was beginning to have its effect, and already my first sensation of fright had passed away, and I felt almost at my ease, and exceedingly curious to know what might be the nature of the proposition he was about to make. I intimated that I was quite ready to listen to it.
"The facts," he began, "that I have observed that you are very much annoyed here by incessant calls for letters by persons who never receive them."
"That's so!" said I, emphatically.
"By Mrs. Moloney, for instance?" added the gentlemanly fiend, with a smile.

"Yes, and not only by her, but by a hundred others, who saunter in half a dozen times a day either for the mere want of something else to do, or for the purpose of annoying me. Every girl employed in the factory makes a point of calling in every morning on her way to work, and every evening of her way home—most of them, moreover, taking advantage of the dinner-hour to run over and inquire for a letter. It's the same with the school-girls, and ditto with the school-boys. Not a farmer in the neighborhood who could pass the post office to take his life—any more than Jerry Guzzle, the tinker, could pass the tavern. There's poor old Daddy Grimes, from the poor house, who never had a relation in the world, and to my certain knowledge has no more prospect of receiving a letter than I have of being made Postmaster General—I believe he would die in a week if he failed to be on hand every day as soon as the mail arrives, to inquire for a letter. I can't stir out of the house without being stopped by half the people I meet, and bawled at from the windows of half the houses in the place, with the same eternal question—'Any letters for me in the office?' Last Sunday, in the middle of Dominic Spinout's sermon, that detestable old mad, Betsey Snoop, whispered to me from the new pew, to know if there was a letter here for her; and when I told her 'no, she wanted to know whether there wasn't one for Mary Meeke.' I told her to come to the post office after church, and I'd step round and see—which I forgot to do—and the old cat stood waiting for me an

hour and a half. I don't mind how often people come who have any sort of reason for doing so; but the people who never get letters are gradually boring my life out, and raising my naturally amiable temper. I can't stand it much longer. I shall commit suicide or resign."
(Concluded in our next.)

A Bogus Special Agent

The *Publisher*, a paper issued at Haverhill, Mass. gives some account of the doings of one "F. A. Herman, of Pittsfield, Mass." who has been imposing himself upon some of the postmasters in the New England States as a Special Agent of the Post Office Department. The *Publisher* says:—
Since about the first of April last Herman has spent a large portion of his time here, and in this vicinity as a generally accredited Post Office detective, by the public as well as by many of our local officers. His first appearance here was on the track of certain bogus lottery operators, and in pursuit of them he assumed great authority, which it seems by common consent of legal officers and the public generally, was conceded to him, so that he came to be known here in certain circles as "the great post-office detective." His operations continued to grow more and more bold, till he commented a direct interference with Mr. Hammett, the New England Special Agent of the Post Office Department. For as to follow him in his sly course, have had an eye on him, one result of which is the publication of the following in the Washington Sunday *Morning Chronicle* of the 18th.

"TRAVELING SCOUNDREL. The Post Office Department is advised that recently an individual bearing the name of F. A. Herman has been operating extensively in Massachusetts, under the assumed authority of a Special Agent of the Post Office and other Governmental Departments, imposing upon postmasters, obtaining access to their offices, &c., and obtaining general information from them. So bold was he that when hesitantly appeared on the part of the officials they were threatened with prosecution, removal, &c. He has even arrested individuals as mail robbers.
The fellow evinced a degree of confidence and skill worthy of a better cause, and victimized not a few. We have reason to believe that ere long the officers of justice will capture this self constituted Agent, and make such a report on his case as will prevent his further journeying during the present inclement season."
"Meanwhile, we beg to admonish all Government officials to be more careful than ever in ascertaining the authority under which strangers call upon them."

For several months he was only known by reputation to the postmaster here, and his authority during that time was unquestioned. He was known to have entered post offices in New Hampshire with perfect freedom, which naturally led to the supposition that he had undoubted authority, and singularly enough his power was rarely questioned, and when it was his successful way of evasion enabled him to slip along, sustaining his false reputation, never showing any authority except correspondence with postmasters.
The postmaster at Atkinson Depot was represented himself as a secret detective of the Department, entering the office and examining the records; he did the same at Plaistow, and was quite impetuous, we understand, with the postmaster at Newton Depot, and we know not how many other offices in that vicinity he made himself familiar with. To keep pace with his growing business he had an arrangement with Mrs. August Wingate August Jones, of this town, as an assistant or clerk to aid him in his secret service. With her he visited Great Falls, entered the office, made himself at home, introducing Mrs. Jones as his assistant, and entered upon an examination of the mails sent and received. The postmaster there says Herman introduced Mrs. Jones as a secret detective of the Post Office Department, and said she could help them all as a detective. Concerning Herman he said he seemed to be well soaked with rum. He also represented to others that his wife was a detective in the employ of the government, and superior in ability to himself.
Salmora Falls was another field of operation by the "Great Detective" and his assistant, where he interfered with the business of Mr. Hammett, making an arrest for mail robbery. He and his assistant made their headquarters there at a public house kept by Mr. Alley. At one time he threatened to arrest the postmaster at East Kingstow for some alleged offence, but as the postmaster says, caused an offer to be made through a third party to settle the matter for fifteen dollars. The proposal was spurned, and the arrest was not made.

Various other operations of this swindler are given: among them an account of an "investigation" by him of certain post office matters, in the course of which,
"Frequent meetings of an *ex parte* character were held at the American House, by Herman and some of the parties interested, by means of which a strong public sentiment was generated in certain circles, so that the matter became a standing subject of comment in all the mug-rooms in town. At these meetings gin was freely introduced, and became a common drink, the 'Great Detective' having an 'unbounded stomach' for juniper, being master of ceremonies. At one of these meetings gin was passed and drank six times within the space of three hours by those taking part in the investigation" (1)
Measures are being taken for the arrest of this rascal; and in the mean time it would be well for postmasters to understand that every *bona fide* Special Agent of the Department should be able to show, as his official credentials, a commission, signed by a Postmaster General, and bearing the seal of the Department. An impostor can be at once detected by his inability to produce this document.

SENDING SEEDS AND PLANTS BY MAIL.—The late act of Congress in authorizing the sending of seeds, plants and cuttings by mail at a low rate of postage, is one of no small importance to an great mass of the people, extended as they are over so wide a district of country. It is often difficult in many parts of the country to procure fresh garden seeds, cuttings of rare trees, and new and valuable plants, and to order them by express, even on express routes, the charges in many instances will exceed several times the value of the things offered. But the late act of Congress authorizes the sending of seeds, cuttings, &c., at so low a rate of postage as to bring them within the reach of all. The law specifies "seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, and scions," which may be sent in packages not exceeding four pounds in weight, the specified limits of the law, at a rate of postage of two cents for every four ounces, or the same for any additional fraction of four ounces; prepaid by stamps. Formerly these things were subject to letter postage, and were generally put up in oiled silk, which is quite expensive, but since the reduction of postage this mode of carriage has been so extensively adopted that paper has been prepared so as to render it impervious to water and air, and is now sold at comparatively low prices. This paper is prepared by giving it a coat of boiled linseed oil, with a small quantity of dissolved India rubber added. Those who wish to prepare paper for their own use, can make an article equally good by giving it a coat of linseed oil, and when dry, or nearly so, give it a coat of shellac dissolved in alcohol, reduced to the consistency of common varnish. Fine Manila paper should be used. To insure the safe transportation of plants in the mail, the seeds should be protected with a covering of half an inch or an inch in thickness of swamp moss, or that gathered from the logs or rocks found in deeply shaded woods, and on the north sides of steep hills. The moss should be moderately damp, and spread out upon the paper of suitable size, and with a small portion of the moss mixed among the roots. The whole is then rolled up snugly and tied, and then again covered with a wrapper of common post office paper, to receive the directions, and marked "Seeds" or "Plants," as the case may be.—*Country Gentleman*.

AN IRON LETTER.—The Birmingham (England) *Journal* announces the reception of a letter by the last America mail, remarkable both as a documentary curiosity and as a specimen of a "miffed sheet" of ordinary note paper. The letter is dated "South Pittsburg (Pennsylvania), November 6, 1864," and says: "In the number of your paper, dated October 1, 1864, there is an article setting forth that Jan. Brown & Co., of the Atlas Works, Sheffield, had succeeded in rolling a plate of iron 13½ inches thick. I believe that to be the thickest plate ever rolled. I send you this specimen of iron made at the Silgo Iron Works, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, as the thinnest iron ever rolled in the world up to this time, which iron I challenge all England to surpass for strength and tenacity. This, I believe, will be the first iron letter that ever crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Yours, &c., JOHN C. EVANS."

The *Journal* says: The iron is said to be of exceedingly fine quality, and the sheet is by far the thinnest ever seen in this country. The letter will be deposited in the Museum of the Midland Institute. Tested by one of Holtzapffel's gauges, the thickness of the sheet is found to be one-thirtieth part of an inch. A sheet of Belgian iron, supposed hitherto to be the thinnest yet rolled, is the 66th part of an inch thick, and the thickness of an ordinary sheet of note paper is about the 40th of an inch.

FLAG OF TRUCE LETTERS.

The following regulations concerning flag of truce letters have been established:—
"1. No letter must exceed one page of a letter sheet, and must relate purely to domestic matters.
"2. All letters (including prisoners') must be sent with five cents postage enclosed, if to go to Richmond, and ten cents if beyond.
"3. Every letter must be signed by the writer's name in full, and post office address.
"4. All letters must be enclosed to the Commanding General of the Department Virginia and North Carolina, Fortress Monroe, endorsed "via flag truce."
"5. No money will be forwarded, except to prisoners of war."
"6. All letters sent to Fortress Monroe without a strict compliance with these rules will be transmitted to the dead-letter office."

A letter carrier in France, having lost a letter containing a large sum of money, hanged himself, supposing he would be suspected of having stolen it. A few hours after his death, the letter was found and restored to the owner.

Letter Addresses.

In Eau Claire, Wis., a thriving town, There's little Justice Davis,
And he who breaks the laws of state
Had better cut and run.
And now, Postmaster, if in your mind there should be any doubt,
Just put this in B. C. D.'s box, and Charlie'll take it out.
Come, Uncle Sam, just take me to ride,
I will give you three cents and thank you beside;
In Andover, Conn., I soon must appear
To wish Jeanie A. Proctor a happy New Year.
Carry this to Ed. Johnson, at Poplar Grove,
You'll probably find him near the stove;
It is up in Boone county, near Belvidere;
He will probably read it without shedding a tear.
Hoist the starry flag, boy, and fight for liberty,
Shoulder your musket and save the country;
I'm going with my regiment way down to Tennessee,
But this letter's going to Ogdensburgh, N. Y.,
Box 373.
To Placerville this letter must go,
In St. Lawrence county, where pretty boys grow;
And when it gets there, don't hesitate
To give it to W. Marshall, of New York state.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



AND
POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1830. By J. HOLBROOK.
J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK FEBRUARY 1865.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions or in reference to the business department of this paper should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated and approved by the Postmaster General.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General, or established.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, Jan. 24, 1864.

DEAR SIR,—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the "United States Mail and Post Office Assistant" as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal operations; and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

W. BENNISON,
Postmaster General.

To J. Gayler Esq. Editor U. S. Mail.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

Pay in Advance.

With the next number of our paper we shall begin the plan of sending it only to those subscribers who have paid for it in advance, according to our terms. Subscribers who have paid only to No. 53 (the present number) or who are in arrears, will not receive the March No., nor any other, until their subscriptions are renewed, and all indebtedness settled. The large number of subscribers who have not paid in advance, and who are a settlement, render it necessary that we shall take this course, which will not be departed from under any circumstances. The following letter which we have received from the financial manager of the Mail, will easily account for the publication of this notice:

Mr. Editor.—Out of 2,000 bills sent to subscribers in September number, for arrears at that date, 750 remain unpaid. Will you respectfully request those gentlemen either to pay up or send those papers back—as Swope did. Yours, indignantly,
W.

[OFFICIAL].

[The section of the Act of March 25, 1864, which is amended as set forth in the following letter to the Postmaster of New York, is the one relating to the transmission of "mailable matter conveyed by mail westward beyond the western boundary of Kansas, and eastward from the eastern boundary of California." "News papers to bona fide subscribers—not exceeding one copy to each subscriber;" and franked matter, were the only mail matter allowed to pass between the above points at less than letter rates of postage. It will be seen that by the new law, "Periodicals, Magazines and Exchange" can now pass at regular printed matter rates, in addition to newspapers, under the same restrictions as to "one copy to each subscriber from any one office."—Ed. Mail.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Appointment Office, Washington, Jan. 24, 1865.
Sir:—A law has been passed at the present session of Congress, amending the provisions of the 4th section of the "Act to provide for carrying the mails from the United States to Foreign Ports and for other purposes," approved March 25th, 1864, so as to make the proviso read as follows:

"Provided that this section shall not be held to extend to the transmission by mail of newspapers, periodicals, magazines and exchanges from a known office of publication to bona fide subscribers, not exceeding one copy to each subscriber from any one office."

You will therefore forward through the mails between the points indicated in the first above mentioned act all newspapers, periodicals, magazines and exchanges from known offices of publication to bona fide subscribers not exceeding one copy to each subscriber from any one office.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
ALEX. W. RANDALL,
1st Assistant Postmaster-General.

JAMES KELLY, Esq., Postmaster, New York.

THE OVERLAND MAIL AGAIN SUSPENDED.—The Postmaster General has again suspended the Overland Mail on account of a fresh outbreak of the Indians along the route, and it is feared that the service cannot be resumed until late in the spring.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate, providing for various changes in the Post Office Laws, but no action has yet been taken in regard to it. The Post Office Appropriation Bill has been passed.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—Hereafter, each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail will bear a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whose number is marked 52, or a lower number, will please remit at once.

The Carnival of Swindlers.

Never, probably, in the history of the country, has the art of swindling been brought by its professors to so high a pitch of perfection as at the present time, and never have those professors been so numerous and so successful. A mania for the accumulation of money by unlawful means seems to have seized upon an alarmingly large portion of our population; and our inventive talent and ingenuity, the national characteristics which heretofore have been a source of national pride, and whose results have in so many forms conducted to the moral and material prosperity of the country—seem now to find almost their only development in schemes of fraud, more or less extensive, according to the opportunities and abilities of the rascals who practise them.

The post office is, of course, made an innocent accomplice in most of these operations. The mails are crowded with letters and circulars containing cunningly devised fables concocted with a view to the extraction of money from the pockets of the unwary, and the columns of our newspapers, from the flash "sporting" sheet to the most intently respectable of the weeklies, bristle with the advertisements of Jeremy Diddlers of every variety, each a full fledged one of Jeff. Davis's fasting-and-prayer-proclamations, or a despatch from Beauregard. Indeed, in looking over the three advertising pages of a weekly paper that lies before us, it is hardly possible to select a half dozen honest, straightforward offers to sell a legitimate article of trade at a fair price. An unmistakable odor of "bugus" hangs about a large majority of the advertisements. To take a few samples:—

"Arrant Knave & Co." will sell you a "gold hunting case watch" for one dollar—if you are lucky enough to get a "certificate" from them (price 25 cents) which after being "well mixed" with other "certificates," proves to be the one that entitles you to the valuable time-piece.

"H. J. Swindler" offers the same inducements on the same terms. "S. G. Raskies & Co." will sell you a "Prize Package" for 50 cents, which contains five dollars' worth of stationery, and will give away a silver watch to anybody who asks for it. So will "Ricketty, Catspaw & Co." A wretch in Knoxville, Tenn., will for \$2, teach the art of making "artificial whiskey" ("dreadful trade!") Mr. "R. G. Gogemg," of New York, and sundry of his provincial imitators, will, for \$1, satisfy, by means of their "On-guments," the longings of smooth-faced youth for the whiskers of manhood. Mr. "O. T. Dead-beat," of Diddleford, Me.—evidently a rebel emissary—discourages enlistments by offering "\$70 a month and expenses" to all who will enter his service as agents for the sale of "fifteen articles," the nature of which he does not disclose. "Smut & Co." will send a "family" newspaper, (the reading matter in which contains notices of the same,) to everybody, free.

A whole regiment of the happy discoverers of the secret of fortune-making consent to part with it on various terms, from a three-cent stamp to a dollar. One advertiser has taken the trouble to import, all the way from Brazil, a valuable compound which will twist the most stiff and stubborn hair into "beautiful wavy ringlets"—and would doubtless transform a porcupine into a poodle—which he will sell for a greenback of the lowest denomination. But it is scarcely worth while to extend the list. Anybody who reads the weekly papers can complete it at his leisure.

Those who advertise their sham wares openly, however, are not the most dangerous and dishonest of the class of which we are writing. The more extensive and complete swindles are those which are carried on exclusively through the mails. Of such are the bogus lottery schemes—concerning which we have only to say that those who are caught by them richly deserve their fate—as a necessary part of the operation requires that they should lend themselves to a supposed plan for swindling the "managers" of these concerns by a corrupt bargain with their pretended "agent." The only difference between the dupe and the cheat, in this matter, is, that the former is a fool as well as a rascal. [Will postmasters who have been bored by the victims of the "Metropolitan Art Union Association—Browne, Sherman & Co., managers, —agent," please read these remarks to them when next the unlucky one inquires the reason why the above firm fails to send them that "\$200 prize"!] There are other lottery operators, not quite such barefaced swindlers as the above, who mail by the thousand their seductive circulars, which, in their plausible statements and cunningly worded semi-guarantees of the certainty of drawing prizes, are a model of ingenious and artistic lying. Then come the bogus "Gold Mining Company" circulars: "Capital \$200,000,000—1st Value of Shares \$50 each—Only \$5 a share to be paid by those who Subscribe Now!—No Further Assessments—Address Secretary of Honeyfugzie People's Gold Mining Co., Box 9,999 Post Office, New York." Then the bogus Petroleum Oil Company: "50,000 acres on the Celebrated Muskrat Run Oil Lands—400 Wells Producing 5000 Barrels a Day each—25 per cent. a Month Guaranteed—Now is the Time to subscribe—Shares \$100—only \$2 to be Paid Now," &c., &c. Then the bogus Health Insurance Company—"Solemn Duty to Provide for Family in Case of Sickness—Universal Everlasting Benevolent Union Protective Northwest-ern and Seaboard Health Association—Subscription \$3 a Year—\$30 a Week Insured in Case of Sickness—Agents Wanted Everywhere—Address Montague Tigg, Treasurer U. E. B. P. N. W. & S. H. A. New York." Then the brief, business-like letter from our old friend "J. H. Tuttle, of Tuttle's Corners, N. J.," whom some unseeing person, taking advantage of his obliging disposition, seems to have burdened with the care of about 50,000 "packages," addressed to so many different individuals, (not a

few of them postmasters, as some of our readers know, to their cost), which Tuttle "will forward on receipt of \$1" (He used to "forward" it for 30 cents, but we suppose the "increase in the price of oats and other provisions" has lately compelled him, reluctantly, to raise his price.) We might add many more to the list of these scamps, and give the details of various others of their subtle devices; but our object is now rather to call the attention of postmasters to the fact that they are made, in many cases, the innocent accomplices in these frauds—and in this way:—In order to carry out successfully a cheat which is proposed to be accomplished through the mail by means of these letters or circulars, a very necessary preliminary step is to obtain the names of a large number of persons likely to "bite" at the tempting baits which these fellows offer. This is done, in nearly all cases, through postmasters, to whom a circular is sent, stating, for instance, that if they will send to a certain (fictitious) address one hundred or more names of persons residing within the delivery of their offices—who would be likely to purchase an agricultural implement of improved pattern, they will receive for their trouble an engraving, book, or some such article. Sometimes a simple request for the names, enclosing a small fee, is sent. Blanks to be filled up with the names are generally sent at the same time. These circulars are in most cases sent to the smaller class of offices. Sometimes they come, not direct from the swindlers themselves, but from parties who make a business of furnishing them with lists from which to select their victims. We trust that any of our readers who may hereafter receive such requests will promptly decline to comply with them, as they may otherwise be the means of assisting in the robbery of their friends and neighbors. As a large number of the dishonest gentry to whom we allude hail from New York city, the editor of this paper will be glad to furnish information to any postmaster who may desire to be "posted" in regard to them and their various plans for the relief of the pockets of the public. It is the duty of every good citizen, and especially of every public officer, to assist to the extent of his power and influence, in defeating the plans of these rogues; and we are satisfied that if postmasters throughout the country will not only be careful that they are not themselves betrayed into giving "aid and comfort" to these enemies of mankind, but also take some pains to warn against them such of their fellow citizens as they have reason to believe are likely to be ensnared by them, the results of the knavish attempts which we have referred to will soon become much less satisfactory to their originators than they are at present.

Editors of newspapers who can find room to insert these remarks, or their substance, will, we think, confer a public benefit by so doing.

Boxes and Box-Rents.

Since the passage of the act of July 1, 1864—the 7th section of which provides "that all postages and box-rents, and all other receipts and emoluments at post offices shall be received and accounted for as a part of the postal revenues"—we have received numerous inquiries from postmasters as to whether it was the intention of the Department to compensate them for the expense of fitting up their boxes, or whether an application for such compensation would be favorably considered. We have referred the subject to the Department, and have received a copy—which we publish below—of a circular letter which has been sent in reply to all such applications. It will be seen by this, that the law in question does not really deprive postmasters of the income from box-rents; for though they are thereby required to return it as part of the postal revenues, an equal amount is reimbursed to them in the form of salary. This is also explained in the instructions appended to section 1 of the same law, which state "that the basis on which salaries will be adjusted is the aggregate compensation of postmasters as derived from commissions, box-rents, or other sources." This is, to be determined by the average amount of such compensation during the two years preceding the passage of the act:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Appointment Office, Washington, 1864.

Sir:—In answer to your letter of the 11th inst., in relation to the boxes put up at your office, and for which you ask to be paid, I have to say that the Department cannot purchase this kind of furniture in post offices. It has no use for boxes—they are usually put up for the convenience of postmasters, and for their benefit. Besides, the Postmaster General has no authority, under any law, to make these purchases—as there is no fund at his disposal to pay for them.

Under the former law, which compensated postmasters by commissions, the Department was rarely if ever called upon to furnish boxes, and never authorized such expense except at such offices as had a large surplus of commissions. At other offices, these boxes were put up by postmasters to increase their income. The law authorizing the payment of salaries directs that the boxes rent be included and constitute a portion of such salary, thereby giving to each postmaster just the amount he formerly received from such rents, in addition to the amount previously received from commissions. The provision requiring postmasters to account for all moneys received for box-rents and other emoluments cannot be deemed hard or oppressive, as they realize in the shape of salary, just the same as they formerly received from box-rents—the property of the boxes being in them as heretofore. The readjustment of salaries once in two years will always insure to this class of offices the same income from this source that they have heretofore received by collecting and retaining the box-rents. Your application is therefore denied.

A. W. RANDALL,
First Assistant Postmaster-General.

PARSON OF TUCKERMAN.—On the 22d Dec., William H. Tuckerman, who, in 1858, was convicted of extensive mill robberies, and sentenced to twenty-one years' imprisonment, was pardoned by President Lincoln, and was set at liberty. The circumstances of the case attracted much public attention at the time—no less than thirteen bags of mail matter having been purloined by him between New York and Boston, before his detection and arrest by the late Mr. Holbrook. His conduct while in prison is said to have been exemplary.

"An Inside View."

Some of our friend Monsieur Tonson's recent remarks have brought forth the following from a postmaster, who is certainly an able champion of his order, and who shows that there is "something to be said on both sides" of a post office window. We fear that his directions to Monsieur, as to the mode of obtaining an "inside view," will lead to the detection of the venerable traveller "between Boston and Buffalo" should he attempt to follow them.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
T. January, 1865.

As far back as I can remember, and that is quite a journey if you receive my steps, there was, among other pictures, in a primer given me last day of school, a representation of an ancient female in a high-backed chair, and very prominent spectacles, armed with a needle and thread, industriously searching after tips and rents in divers garments, while underneath, in order that very small children should understand, it were the words—

"A stitch in time saves nine."

Who shall ever determine the potency and influence this maxim has exerted in the formation of character? I venture to say that there is not an old bachelor living, who, in looking upon the remarkable fact of being upright in an arm-chair, with a button on the back side of his waistband, with no greater degree of his general anatomy than a left circum-elongation of the eyeball, and a spiral in place of a spinal column, who will not say he is indebted more to this maxim for the perseverance that carried him through, than to any immediate individual necessity.

While commending it to all who tie up packages in their mails, I would not forget to report progress, and the arrival of parcels the past month, in a very good state of preservation. For this improvement, we are indebted to the columns of the "Mail," wherein the mild stimulus of suggestion has an active and searching ally in the person of our ubiquitous friend between Boston and Buffalo.

It is true that the diminution of labor under the recent changes, give, to the employed in all offices ample opportunity to understand their duties thoroughly, and while they are all trying to do their best to please the "dear people," and, if possible, convince them there is no "necessity for a change," I am still inclined to apologize for the country postmasters where they have "no excuse," and pour a little oil upon the fire of "no excuse," and many of them unjustly and silently suffer. It is certainly no less to wait at the delivery port hole than ever before. Now-a-days all the "forwards of the hamlet" and their posterity expect a letter from the army every time an empty bag comes in from the cross-roads, and they don't all come at once, either. They are so waiting for that the rigor of winter, and the cold from grand-children to grand-children, and certain they will get it—"only keep the old cuss poking them over."

It takes just as long for the postmaster who "whips the cat" in his own office for a livelihood, to leave the last lit on a boot-heel bludgeoned, to satisfy the mental torture of "John Coony or James Mulvey," as it does for the Molasses, like all water, that it did before the war; but you must sit down the measure half emptied, to satisfy the impatience of Messrs. Flip-Wiggle, as the words, "in haste," are upon the envelopes of all her letters. The poor man the same time, suffer as much as the "old man" if he deranged his business, and be finally dived a victim of financial exhaustion.

There is no excuse for missing letters; still I will apologize for you if you get, as I did the other day, directed to "Michigan New York County, Vermont."

There is no excuse for giving letters to wrong persons; but I will apologize for you if you have none Smith ladies in your delivery, and John sometimes gets hold of J. Smith's private correspondence. "No excuse" I will relate an incident. One of my Smiths goes by the name of "Foxy," being of the male genus and void of "stamina," the name is quite appropriate, still he is a sensitive plant that don't wilt much at that name, but fires up exceedingly. A letter came addressed to Rosy Smith, and my clerk, without thinking but that "Foxy" was the flower referred to, gave him the letter, and you ought to have seen the fire fly. "The whole postal system was an insult and outrage on humanity." "Postmasters are d—d scoundrels, and their clerks insinuating pups." "Old Abe had better appoint a Nigger, for it's nothing but a Nigger constitution from top to bottom."—and "I'll never buy another stamp at this office!" After this effluence he cooled off, and was soon as quiet as the summer sea.

There is no excuse for introducing outsiders to help sort the mail, and I shall not apologize for you if you do it and while there is less excuse than formerly for carelessness, &c., I will still stand up in your defence, for I know your many and sore afflictions, and that ignorance, stupidity and meanness encompass you round about and make all these art assaults upon the frail tenore by which you hold your patience and forbearance.

While I disclaim any desire to get our friend on a "string" or a strike, I am still earnest in wishing him to get an "inside view." No trouble in getting in—and here I condense a synopsis of a "Pass." Tell the postmaster that you wish to write a word or two—that you wish to consult the List of Post Offices—that you want to inquire about postage, knowing you have been cheated by a neighboring office—that you are a superannuated postmaster, and are getting subscribers for a "new work"—that you contemplate giving a "free lecture" for the benefit of the soldiers, and want to consult—that you are a candidate for the office of constable, and want him "to lay pipe." If all these fill, tell him, "You want to swap a ten dollar greenback for postage currency, and he will 'open Sesame.'" Once inside, you can stay as long as you choose, that is, if fifteen hours, which is an ordinary day's work in a country office, will answer. To satisfy the postmaster you are not an official, which is essential to your success, step up and examine all the letters in the boxes, haul out some subscriber's paper from one of them, and sit down to read it. The postmaster will mildly object, and quietly replace it in the box as he ought, but you have "pulled the wool" over his eyes, and can complete your observations unsuspected. You will see him tie up packages—you will notice he has legs, arms, and hands—you will conclude he is a perfectly formed human being—but he is not—look a little closer, and you will discover his "fingers are all thumbs," and that's the reason he ties "granny knots" with such a perfect looseness.

CICOR.

SAVANNAH POST OFFICE RE-ESTABLISHED.—The post office at Savannah has been re-established, and the President has appointed Mr. J. G. Mills, Postmaster there. Mr. Mills is an old citizen of Savannah, and has resided there through the whole period of the rebellion, remaining a firm and consistent Union man. His appointment is a fitting recognition of his faithfulness among the faithful.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Post Office, P.—Jan. 23d, 1865.
Editor U. S. Mail:—Your reply, through the Mail, to the following, is solicited:
1.—Article 2, a. Account Current, requires a separate entry for postage due on two kinds of letters received, (viz: Dead letters returned to the writers, and valuable dead letters, not billed,) from the ordinary unpaid letters received.

The return dead letters received at this office come through Philadelphia P. O., and are charged on the post bill with the other unpaid letters.
I separate the bill, so as to make a distinction between the two kinds, and enter in Mails Received Account the amount of the bill, less the sum due on the return letters (entering them in a special column) my account of Mails Received from Philadelphia will not compare on examination with the Account of Mails Sent at that office.

If I enter the whole face of the bill, dead letters included, the amount goes to Article 2, Account Current, and no sum appears for Article 2 a. Now in making out the quarterly account, credit is to be taken in Article 11, a, for such return letters again sent to the Post Office, but if no charge appears for such letters received, it does not look well to take credit for them, although they are accounted for in another item; either mode above described has its objections—which is proper? Can you suggest a better? Would it not be well for the Department to adopt a Dead Letter post bill?

2.—If an advertisement appears in a newspaper requesting reply by mail, addressed simply to the No. of a box in the post office, has a postmaster the right to give the name of the owner of the box, when requested to do so by another party, if the box holder has given no notice to the postmaster that he did not want his name to be made known? P. M.

1.—In reply to the first question: Enter the full amount of unpaid matter charged on the Philadelphia bill, in the unpaid column of your sheet of Mails Received for Delivery. Then keep an account of the Return Dead Letters separate from that of the ordinary unpaid letters, and, when making out your Account Current, enter at Article 2, the amount due on all ordinary unpaid letters received during the quarter, and at Article 2 a the amount charged against your office on return dead letters which have been received by you during the quarter. Then credit yourself, at Article 11 a, with the amount of postage due on return dead letters which being unclaimed are sent back by you to the Department, at the end of the quarter; and, at Article 12, with the postage due on unpaid letters remaining on hand at the end of the quarter.

2.—A postmaster is not justified in revealing the name of a box holder without his express consent. The mere absence of any notice not to do so cannot be considered as authority for doing it.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Will you answer a query or two for a know-nothing, viz: Can I send a letter to a foreign country with the United States postage only paid; and if so must I charge double the unpaid postage, according to other underpaid matter.
All arrears in postage and box-rent are paid. In answering the above you will much oblige a reader of the Mail. Ass't P. M.

1.—Letters to foreign countries must, if prepaid, be prepaid by stamps at the full rates indicated on our Table of Foreign Postages. If only part paid, they are to be treated as wholly unpaid, and in that case, if pre-payment on a particular part-paid foreign letter is compulsory, it is not forwarded, but is sent to the Dead Letter Office to be returned to the writers. If pre-payment is optional, it is sent forward charged as wholly unpaid.

2.—A postmaster is not allowed to deliver any mail matter till the postage thereon is paid; but he cannot detain paid matter for postage due on other matter, nor for arrears of box rent.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Please enlighten me on the following points:
Is the regulation still in force which requires a postmaster to deliver newspapers (not addressed) from a furnished list, provided the postage on the whole number is paid a year in advance?
Can a private individual send a letter free of postage to the President, or to any of the departments of the government? E. W. P. M.

We answer yes, to both the above questions.

POST OFFICE, P.—Mass.—
Editor U. S. Mail:—Will you oblige me as well as other post office officials in this section by informing us through your columns, if any account should be kept of drop letters and transient newspapers prepaid by stamps and sent through the office under the new regulations? Ass't P. M.

There is no account to be kept of prepaid matter of any description other than that of the "whole number of letters received for delivery during the last week of the quarter," which is to be sent with each quarterly account.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Is there any law requiring postmasters to redeem mutilated fractional currency? If so, what are the instructions in regard to it? Ass't P. M.

There is no law requiring postmasters to redeem mutilated fractional currency. All persons presenting it for redemption at post offices should be instructed that the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, will redeem it (on the conditions set forth in a circular issued by the Treasury Department) when sent to him in sums of not less than three dollars.

Editor U. S. Mail:—I see in the last issue of the Mail, a paragraph regarding the fractional currency and Treasury notes. In sending such notes to the Treasurer for exchange for those not torn or defaced, has the postmaster a right to frank the package, or must he pay the postage both ways?
It seems to me questionable whether he should be obliged to take them for stamps, and then to pay the postage to and from the Treasury.

By consulting the last law of Congress in regard to the Franking Privilege (which we again publish in another column of this number) our correspondent will find this question answered. All persons can send official letters to the U. S. Treasurer, on official business, free, and the Treasurer of course franks his reply.

With regard to this matter of torn and defaced fractional currency, we will state that the para-

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

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TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES. Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, and Nova Scotia. To Newfoundland prepayment required. To Canada and New Brunswick, 100. per 3 oz., any distance. Steamers of the Cunard line sail from Boston twice each month, touching at Halifax, and when letters are sent by that conveyance for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island, the U. S. postage is 5 cents the single rate, to be prepaid. The inland rate is collected on delivery. Newspapers by this route, the postage is two cents each.

Main table with columns for Countries, Postage on Letters, Postage on Printed Matter, and various rates for different mail services.

Newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and sent to regular subscribers in the British North American Provinces, or published in those Provinces and sent to regular subscribers in the United States, are chargeable with the regular prepaid quarterly rates of United States postage to and from the line, which postage must be collected at the office of mailing in the United States on matter sent and at the office of delivery in the United States on matter received. In like manner, such matter, if transient, is chargeable with the regular domestic transient printed matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States, as the case may be. Editors, however, may exchange free of expense.

Letters received from Canada, to which are affixed uncancelled United States postage stamps of sufficient value to pay the full postage chargeable thereon, should be delivered without charge by the United States offices.

Valuable letters for Germany, or any part of the German-American Postal Union, by Bremen or Hamburg line via New York, or by the Prussian closed mail via New York and Boston, as also letters addressed to Great Britain and Canada, will be registered on the application of the person posting the same, in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable from the United States, provided that the full postage chargeable thereon to destination, together with a registration fee of twenty cents on each letter to Great Britain or Ireland, and above on each letter to the other places mentioned above, is prepaid at the mailing office. Such letters should be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices.

REGISTRATION OF LETTERS. All letters to and from foreign countries (the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, France and the British North America Provinces excepted), to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of half an ounce; double rate, if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding one ounce; quadruple rate, if exceeding an ounce, but not exceeding two ounces; and so on, charging two rates for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce over the first ounce. As this rule differs from that followed in respect to domestic letters, great care is requisite, to prevent mistakes. Letters in the mail to France are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of one quarter ounce; double rate, if exceeding a quarter, but not exceeding half an ounce; and so on, additional rate being charged for each quarter ounce or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Letters addressed to the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, and to the British North America Provinces, as also to the same manner as domestic letters, one rate being charged for each half ounce or fractional part of half an ounce. Postmasters should be careful, where the postage is prepaid, to collect the proper amount, and to be particular to note the rate indicated on the envelope of letters, and to collect postage accordingly. Letters mailed at some offices, marked "via England," or "via Prussian closed mail," for a German State, are free of postage, and those marked "via Bremen," at Prussian closed rates, &c.

ROUTES OF RATES OF LETTERS GOING VIA FRANCE. In the case of letters to be delivered in the British mail for transmittal from England, via "Marseilles," the French postage is rated at six cents the quarter ounce, except on letters for Java, China, Labuan, Borneo, Japan, the Moluccas and Philippine Islands, which are rated at eight cents per half ounce. The United States letters for Syria and Tunis, by French packet, when the single French rate is 12 cents per quarter ounce. The rates by "French mail" are in full destination, and to the following places, viz.: Aden, Batavia, Ceylon, China, cities of Turkey, in Europe, except as herein mentioned, via Austria, countries to which correspondence can be sent via Suez, countries beyond seas, via France, other than the United States, India, Ceylon, Hong Kong, Java, Mauritius, Penang, Peking, Portugal, Isle of Reunion, Servia, except Belgrade, Shanghai, Singapore and Spain. The limit of prepayment to Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar, is Behobis; to Servia, (except Belgrade), to the cities and cities of Turkey in Europe, except as herein mentioned, "via Austria;" the frontier of Turkey and Austria; to Aden, East Indies, Ceylon, China, and other countries via Suez, the seaports of the United States, and the sea of China to which the English packets, and other places beyond seas, other than those designated, the limit is the port of arrival in the country of destination. Letters may be forwarded in the French mails to Moldavia, Wallachia, and Turkey in Europe, by way of France and Austria; but the postage thereon must in all cases be paid at the place of destination.

LETTERS ON PAMPHLETS, MAGAZINES, ETC. West coast of South America, the United States postage is four cents; and to or from all other foreign countries, (except Great Britain, Belgium, and the German States, via Bremen or Hamburg mail) two or four, or fraction thereof, to be collected in all cases, the United States. Newspapers and periodicals to foreign countries (particularly to the continent of Europe) must be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends; otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage.

ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, ETC. To prevent mistakes at the exchange offices, it is desirable that the particular routes by which letters are to be forwarded from the United States to Europe, should be distinctly written on the covers. Letters intended for transmission in the open mail to England, should bear the direction "open mail via England;" if for transmission in the French mail, they should be directed, "via France in French mail;" if for transmission by the Prussian closed mail to Prussia, they should be directed "via Prussian closed mail;" if for transmission in the closed mail to Belgium, they should be directed "via Belgian closed mail;" and if for transmission by the Bremen or Hamburg line to Bremen, or by the New York and Hamburg line to Hamburg, they should be directed "via Bremen," or "via Hamburg."

It is important that letters addressed to Germany and other European countries, via France, where the single rate per quarter ounce is 21 cents, should be plainly marked to be sent via France; otherwise they may be misdirected in the open mail to Liverpool by United States packet, the 21 cent rate per half ounce being also chargeable on letters thus forwarded.

DATE OF DEPARTURE of European, South Pacific and Havana Mails for the Month of February, 1865.

Table with columns: Name of the Line, Government to which belonging to, Date of Departure from New York, Date of Departure from Boston, DESTINATION.

*Pamphlets and Periodicals two cents each, if not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if they exceed two ounces, to be collected in all cases in the United States. *Pamphlets, Magazines, and other printed matter, 2 cents per 1/2 ounce or fraction thereof. The above Postage Tables have been examined and adopted by the Post Office Department, and are to supersede all others now in use.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. V., No. 6.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1865.

WHOLE No. 54.

(Original.)

THE FATAL CONTRACT.

A STORY FOR THE CLERKS.

Concluded.

"No necessity for either suicide or resignation, my dear sir. I can point out a plan which will remedy the whole difficulty at once."

"Can you?" I cried; have you really a secret which will relieve me from this intolerable nuisance? Oh, tell it to me—tell it to me, and—"heaven will bless you." I was about to say; but on reflection I thought that wasn't very likely, so I said:—"and I shall be very much obliged to you?"

"I dare say you would, my friend," said, with a grin, the illustrious personage I addressed, "but I really couldn't sell out quite so cheap as that."

I realized the absurd nature of my proffered recompense, and was silent.

"My terms, however, are not hard," resumed Mr. B.:—"but first let me explain the means which I propose to furnish for your relief: You have not forgotten the letters you so unexpectedly found in the letter-case, addressed to some of my friends, whose names I gave you?"

I assured him I was not likely to forget them very soon.

"Very good. Now, I will insure (on certain easy conditions) that hereafter, whenever you are inquired of, by anybody, for a letter, you may safely answer 'Yes' for there will surely be in that letter case, at any hour, a letter for any person who may ask for it. What do you think of the plan?"

"It is admirable!" said I. "beautiful! and your terms are—?"

"Very low—triflingly low. The only condition is that you are never to say 'No' to any person who may inquire of you for a letter."

"Is that all? No danger of my saying 'No,' I'll be bound. But may I inquire—suppose I should (accidentally, you know) happen to say 'No'—what would be the—?"

"The penalty?—well,—ahem,—why, as to that—money's no object to me, you know, so I'm obliged to ask for something else—the usual article,—you probably understand, don't you?"

"I suppose so," said I, beginning to feel rather uncomfortable—"you want that is—in short, you want me, don't you?"

"Your quickness of perception does you credit,—that is about the size of it. But don't distress yourself about that. There isn't the least probability of your being called on to pay for it—not the least. A young man of your shrewdness isn't likely to get himself into trouble by saying 'No,' when it's so much easier to say 'Yes,' is he now? I can assure you that most young men find 'No' the hardest word in the language; but 'Yes' is as easy as—lying. However, there's no compulsion. Think the matter over, and take it or leave it—just as you please."

I did think it over, and the more I did so, the more it seemed to me improbable, if not impossible, that I should ever expose myself to the necessity of paying the dreadful penalty. By what possible concatenation of circumstances could I, with the most ordinary watchfulness and care, be likely to utter the fatal 'No'?"

It would be so easy to keep a guard over the unruly member—so easy to drill myself by constant practice in saying 'Yes,' that 'No' would become an impossibility. There was no danger—and if there were? was I a coward? I would accept. I did accept.

"It's a bargain," said I.

"That's right—Bravo! I like to deal with a plucky, resolute fellow like you. I'll draw up the contract, if you'll lend me the materials—just a matter of form, you know—only a matter of form. There," said he, after having sat for a few moments at the desk; "I believe this is correct," and he read the agreement. "Sign just here, if you please."

"With—with ink?" inquired I.

"Ink? Oh, certainly—you don't believe that nonsense about little matters of this kind being signed in blood, do you? Pooh, pooh! all nursery tales, stuff and nonsense. Ink can do all the mischief I want,—ha! ha!"

I placed my signature to the contract. Just as I had done so, some one tapped at the delivery window. It was poor old "buddy Grimes," from the almshouse.

"Any letter for me to-day?"

My heart leaped to my mouth as I found myself on the very verge of uttering an impatient "No!" Fortunately, I remembered my fearful bargain in time, substituted "Yes," and looked in the case. There was the letter—"Mr. Grimes—Alms House." The old man tottered off with his unexpected acquisition, surveying it carefully with wonder-opined eyes. (I will mention here that he never called again.)

"You see," said the stranger, (no stranger now, unfortunately,) "that it works like a charm. No mistakes—everything quite correct. Suppose we experiment a little, just for practice?" and stepping outside, he called at the window for letters by the dozen, directed to all sorts of people—the Emperor of China—Queen Victoria—Louis Napoleon—Judas Iscariot—the Pope of Rome—Lord Palmerston—Captain Kidd—Ar-

temus Ward—Oliver Cromwell, and a host of others, for all of whom I found at once a letter. I declared myself satisfied with the test.

"Well, my young friend," said the unmentionable one, "now that I've started the machine, I'll leave you to run it. I must be off, for I'm very busy got an engagement this evening at a cabinet council in Richmond. Good-bye—he care-tul, that's my parting advice. I may call on you again, but it will be your own fault if I do—take care of you, self!" And he was gone.

I had not long to wait for an opportunity to avail myself, in a practical way, of the advantages of this most convenient arrangement. The factory bell rang out the signal to cease work, and soon the girls came flocking, as usual, to my window with the familiar inquiry for letters. To each applicant I confidently answered "Yes," and to each I delivered a letter—to the undisguised astonishment of nine-tenths of them, who had not the least expectation of receiving such a thing. It was the same with every caller that day, and the next, and the next. It went on for weeks and for months. The letter-case was never exhausted, but promptly at each call was found to contain the wished-for epistle, and none went empty-handed away from the post-office. What these letters contained I never knew and never inquired. It was sufficient for me that there was always a letter for everybody who felt disposed to inquire for one, and that in consequence of this agreeable state of things I was relieved from the vexations of which I had previously complained. Each caller received his or her letter promptly, and as promptly hastened off to read it at leisure, leaving me at liberty to employ, in making up my mails, arranging the office accounts, seeking instruction from the book of regulations or the columns of the *U. S. Mail*, and other necessary duties, the time I had been wont to waste in fruitlessly searching for non-arriving letters, and answering the endless inquiries, and allaying the unpleasant suspicions as to the probable cause of such non-arrival. I became so accustomed to the use of the affirmative monosyllable that it escaped me in reply to almost every question which was addressed to me, and I felt every day more and more confident that I should be able to outwit even the astute personage with whom I had made the compact, and that the penalty could never be justly claimed by him.

I became the most popular man in the place. The praises of my promptness and obliging manners were in everybody's mouth; and save for one drawback, I should have been the happiest of mortals. But those letters from the army for Nellie Parker still continued to arrive with disgusting regularity, and I was obliged to deliver them, though I was by this time convinced that they were from a favored rival. I had visions of the arrival of a fierce and handsome warrior, with the star of a brigadier on his shoulder-strap, who would snatch the fair Nellie from before my eyes, make her his willing bride, and whisk her off in an express train to Washington. The ample leisure I now enjoyed gave me also ample time to torment myself in this manner; and though the coolness between Nellie and myself still existed, I was burning with a desire to satisfy myself as to the correctness of my suspicions. I became a monomaniac on the subject, and could scarcely think on any other.

At length, one fatal day a dark and desperate thought entered my brain: how easy it would be to confirm or dispel my doubts by reading one of those letters! I tried to banish the terrible idea, but in vain! It haunted me day and night, until at last it grew familiar to my mind, and I no longer recoiled from its contemplation. As letter after letter arrived for her, I would gaze on the superscription and on the seal with longing eyes, thereby only increasing my desire to penetrate their inner mysteries. The result was to be foreseen. A day arrived when I could endure the suspense no longer—I must read one of the letters, and know my fate—and, retiring to a corner of the office, I proceeded to open it carefully. Before I had time to read a word, a gentle "tap, tap" at the window caused me to start in alarm. Hastily cramming the opened letter into my pocket, I advanced to the window. There stood Nellie herself!

"Any letter for me, to-day, Mr. —?" (she used to call me John—but that was over.)

Overwhelmed with shame and consciousness of guilt, I felt my color come and go—my knees trembled under me—a chill perspiration bathed my forehead—the office seemed to reel before my eyes—I lost all presence of mind—all memory—and in a broken, hesitating voice I answered:

"No!"

"Ha! ha! ha!" yelled a voice at my elbow.

"Pooh! your bond is forfeited! the penalty is due! Come, prepare to meet your doom—for you are mine! mine forever—body and soul—soul and body. Come!" and the demon flung his burning grasp upon my throat.

I tried to beg for mercy—for a few moments' time—but my infernal creditor was inexorable. "Come!" he shouted, and "come! come!" screamed a legion of imps, who by this time had collected around me, mingling the cry with peals of mocking laughter. A pair of bat-like wings spread from the shoulders of the Bend-

his grasp on my throat grew closer, and I felt myself rapidly flying through the air—when suddenly my head came in violent contact with some hard substance, and—I awoke, to find myself sprawling on the floor, where I had fallen from the stool upon which I had been seated, sound asleep. My first thought was of Nellie's letter—thank heaven, it was not in my pocket! The mocking laughter still rang in my ears, however. It came from a group of factory-girls who had been enjoying the sight of my slumbers and my tumble. At the window appeared the face of my old friend Mrs. Moloney, who greeted me, as I arose, with the old query:

"Have ye ever a leather for me?"

P. S.—I may as well add that Nellie is now Mrs. D. P. M., having some time ago vouchsafed to inform me that those mysterious letters were after all only addressed to her, to escape the watchfulness of the "stern parients" of a young friend of hers, whose military lover was not looked upon by them with favorable eyes, and that the outside was all she ever saw of them, the contents being intended for the exclusive perusal of the young lady referred to.

"Suffering" Communities.
B.—7, February, 1865.

Mr. Editor:—Your correspondent in the January number of the *Mail* regrets the fact that there are localities where "a change would be a great relief to the long afflicted"—to communities that have long "suffered" from the negligence and general incapacity and failure of postmasters; to meet the expectations of the public. Now, I am an unworthy P. M. in a country office. I have been "among the mail bags" more or less for twenty years, and if you will permit, I would like to refer one day to these "great expectations" so that none of your readers may be in doubt as to what they really are. I live in a community where "suffering" is a very mild name for the chronic distress which prevails in it.

I conclude that what is true of our office is more or less true of all. If there are exceptions, they belong to offices of the first or second class, where, for many reasons, a P. M. may take a more positive position without censure, and is not himself brought in personal contact with the afflicted public. His clerks file all the discordant mail, and he reads not or hears not. He may close his office on a holiday, a thanksgiving day, or a fast, and nobody complains. He can open and close his office with less regard to regular business hours. He may live up to a rigid construction, while others must smooth over and compromise, or think they must by yielding a little here, and a little there, till they are sunk in the mire of official looseness beyond the hope of re-assertion. The one is powerful and independent, while the other is weak and dependent. The one communes only with the higher powers, and fears not to follow the rigid line of official duty. The other is in great peril of offending the public, and consequently his enemy. It strikes me that all postmasters should be protected by positive law from such expectations and exactions. If a P. M. may deliver a few copies of a local paper free in a spirit of accommodation, it is easy to see that he becomes a free horse at once, and must be ridden to death. He must deliver all they want him to, and the consequence is there is not a country office where a local paper is printed that does not handle from two hundred to four hundred copies per week "to accommodate."

The most difficult thing for a postmaster to do is to collect postage in advance. I have endeavored to do it, and I know they "expect" I will not do it, and "suffer" if I do. I have had my share of very aggravated "suffering" because I charged postage on letters already paid by Revenue Stamps.

"They suffer" because I will not take all their mutilated postage currency. They suffer because I want allow more than twenty families to occupy one box.

I have seen great "suffering" in very cold days because there was no fire in front of the boxes, so that it would be more comfortable for loaders and boys. Now and then the "suffering" is divided, as when a subscriber fails to get his paper; for instance, he suffers the loss and I the consequences. I have known them to "suffer" the pain of waiting a few minutes longer than usual when I had three or four extra bags to distribute, and sometimes their "suffering" is so acute that I am tempted to throw the whole hatch into the crowd to satisfy them of my desire to expedite matters by making as prompt a delivery as possible. I heard one "sufferer" say that he would be justified in smashing in the glass and taking out his paper; it was his box and his paper, and "pity if a man can't steal his own truck."

There is a good deal of "suffering" because I won't mail boots and plug tobacco at paper rates, as "other postmasters do"; and there is great distress when we unearth briar-wood pipes and fine-cut in transient papers, but these last are not so malignant a type; yet the names of the "sufferers" will generally occupy a good deal of space on a petition for the appointment of a more accommodating postmaster. I might mention other cases of "suffering," but I forbear, trusting I shall live to see the day when occasion for it is mostly removed, when the system is entirely a prepaying one, and positive law entirely shields every individual official from public censure in the line of his duty. Cicor.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

That often-quoted mythical individual, "the oldest inhabitant," will certainly have to put on his thinking cap and run his memory back through a long line of years to find a counterpart to the wintry severity of the initial months of 1865. I call myself a traveller—in fact, I may say that I prefer to be constantly on the go. Vague hints about "rolling stones gathering no moss," and the importance of having one's life insured, are occasionally dropped by disinterested friends; but, as I am a firm believer in the doctrine that "whatever is to be will be," I trouble myself but little about piles of moss or policies of insurance. I am fond of new places and new faces. Afloat or ashore, it is exceedingly irksome to me to be stationary. Delays vex, annoy, in fact, almost provoke me, whether they are caused by collisions, explosions, headwinds, dead calms, blow-ups, break-downs, ignorant pilots, reckless engineers or sleepy switch-tenders.

Liberal allowance must be made for marine disaster and trouble when Old Neptune, in his fretful moods, sets his mad waves dancing to the music of the unchained winds; and for railway accidents and detentions when spring floods wash away, or snow storms cover up the tracks; but for the thousand and one unnecessary stoppages, I know of no plausible excuse which can be made to satisfy the growling, swearing sufferers at every station and in every passenger coach on every railroad in the country.

It may seem strange to some that by my own election I run the risk of immersion, elevation, or annihilation, in venturing on transportation in such precarious weather—it seemed strange to me the other day when the train ran off into a snowbank, where we were forced to remain in a car in company with a cold stove for five hours—yes, five mortal hours, and every one of them big with impatience and anxiety. But I was on my way to the oil regions—that explains the whole matter. Hitherto I have been proof against all the extraordinary inviting investments from which colossal fortunes were certain to flow. Every new scheme to vex Old Mother Earth and tear from her bowels gold, and silver, and lead, and iron and coal, have been regarded as humbugs of a progressive order—but Petroleum found a vulnerable spot and struck in—and here I am, poring over maps and plans by day, and by night to dreams boring for oil in a hundred places at once, from many of which the fragrant fluid jets up and falls around one, for all the world as water falls gracefully about some classic fountain figure in a public park. But I don't want you to suppose, my dear sir, for a moment, that Petroleum has usurped the place in my brain where my post office hobby quarters. No, sir! there is room for both, and both can be properly looked after. It don't follow, because my head is full of oil, that I cannot see official misconduct. My spectacles are never-falling. It is the easiest thing in the world to tell at a glance whether a postmaster realizes the responsibility of his official position, or whether he only holds the office for the sake of the salary.

On the one hand, he is always about, knows to a demonstration what is going on in his office, is familiar with complaints and inquiries, and is always ready with satisfactory explanations and replies for all, poor or proud, ignorant or intelligent. His clerks are dignified and polite; decorum and order are marked traits of his establishment. On the other hand, you may visit some offices a hundred times and never find the postmaster; and if you have official business and inquire for him, you are stared out of countenance by his representative, who apparently feels deeply surprised that anybody should expect to find him there. And open doors, dusty floors, mail bags scattered around and trampled on, boisterous clerks, whistling and singing loud enough to crack the welkin, or shying packages of papers or letters at each others heads; pert or curt answers to applicants for letters, which create a laugh; and many other interesting oddities, show unmistakably the office which runs itself. The most unskilled fault-finder imaginable can easily perceive the difference.

Upon the whole, however, I think there is more attention given to business and more carefulness displayed in the management of post offices of late; but whether the improvement is attributable to an earnest desire to be faithful, or to the fear of something to come after the 4th of March, is beyond my comprehension.

It gives me much pleasure to see the efforts you are making to open the eyes of your readers at large to the repeated attempts of fictitious firms and individuals to swindle them by means of bogus lotteries and other nefarious schemes, and I am confident that you have done much to thwart many of their well-laid plans; but there is another class of fictitious letters, countenanced, I fear, by post office officials in many places, which is worthy of more than a slight notice—I mean the correspondence between young girls and young men—strangers to each other—under assumed names, and unknown to parents and guardians. This pernicious and reprehensible custom, so fraught with danger to the young and

inexperienced, is familiar to many postmasters, who regard it as pardonable pastime, or juvenile indiscretion of no importance; but if these gentlemen only knew how many hearts have been crushed, high hopes blasted, and hearth-stones desolated by such means, they would use every influence to stop the baleful practice, not only by apprising the families of the thoughtless and misguided young females, whenever the parties are known, but by strict injunctions to their employees to avoid aiding or abetting either the innocent or designing ones, by receiving and delivering such correspondence secretly.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

Sorrows of a Route Agent.

The following is a copy of a letter from a Route Agent to one of the officers of the Department, giving a doleful picture of the ills he is called upon to encounter in the performance of his official duties. The "Dead Fall" referred to is a certain railroad, the name of which we omit. Doubtless there are many Presidents, Superintendents and Directors whose conscience will suggest the proper name to insert in the blank:

Sir:—In submitting this effusion for your perusal, I do so, not for the purpose of "bothering" you in the discharge of your arduous duties, but to report the condition of the railroad on which I have been placed, through the influence of the *Pub. Func.* from my district, as a Route Agent on this line. I feel it my only as well as my privilege to write to you. "I can't say what will happen next; but this enumeration of ills has all been realized for the purpose of facilitating the mail in — and other States.

The probability is, that the mail has been facilitated some—*a little* more than if it had gone by stage; yet the time has come—*yea*, already "arrived"—when "facility" is played out, from the fact that the "Dead Fall" has, on its last legs. The road has been running 70 years and no repairs have been added or made; and now we—that is the Route Agents and others—are compelled to get off the train and walk over bridges, in order to make sure of our lives: the engineers of this road even leave their engines, to pass the frail works called bridges. At night (our work is all done then), we dare not lay our heads upon the soft side of a leather mail sack stuffed with *Pub. Docs.* for fear that Morpheus will take possession of our tired spirits; and whilst re-creating in the land of dreams, thinking of mail sacks and the next station, a cursed broken rail will crawl through the bottom of the car, tearing our "mucky" worn trousers (or throwing our trousers) and well-furnished (or down) some embankment, knocking us around, irrespective of persons, with the rest of the mails.

The question is, can't something be done? We have two mail cars in the ditch, and the other will be before night; and Goodness only knows (and Goodness won't tell), how we are to run the mails. As for box-cars, cattle-cars, and sack like, I shrink back from them in horror, as we will freeze to death anyhow, and I can't bear the idea of going off from *terrestrial to celestial* scenes in any such conveyance. Our pay is about fifteen dollars per week, and our expenses about eighteen. I am not much of a book-keeper or accountant, but where the *money is made here*—I can't see.

This is all true, if it is spoken, or rather written in a style of *la brevitè*. You will probably hear from the other agents before long.

I submit this in all candor.
Very Respectfully,
Yours, in trouble,

Letter Addresses.

To New York city is the way
Which this must go to Francis Fay:
The number's 94 Old Slip—
Be kind enough to "let her rip."

This letter is for Henry Pell,
Who, when in funds, is an awful "swell,"
At number 9 of the street called Pine
You'll find him, though he has no sign.
For "E. & P." he is chief of the mail,
And ne'er was known his work to shirk.
New York city is his location—
Student-at-law is his vocation.

Mrs. Harry A. Miller,
Though the wife of a tiller,
Near Camp street lives she,
As happy as happy can be,
County of Adams so great,
All in the famed Prairie State,
Care and kindness of N. Miller.

Send this to Polk's office, to Susan A. Bates,
In care of John Keech, who makes no mistakes.
If her sister should get it, 'twould be all the same.
She lives on North Bridge street, the fourth house
from Main.

For "Sanford" this letter's intended,
"George H." is the rest of his name;
He dwells in the town of Ovid,
In Madison county of fame.
Send in care of Pat. Farrell, who cries
To every poor travelling clerk,
"Here's a cold oyster-soup and mince pies,
And you'll have ten minutes for dinner."

A soldier writing from Dixie to the De Witt
(Iowa) Observer, backs his epistle as follows for the
edification of postmasters on the route:

Like lightning traversing the Devil's half acre,
Transport me, I pray thee, to S. H. Shoemaker.
He edits a paper that's arsenic to traitors,
And is death and destruction to all Union-haters.
No shadow of comfort can from it be drawn,
For low, crawling reptiles like Billy G. Hann,
Now punch up your baigine and make the thing pit.
For I'm dying by inches to reach old De Witt,
All hail to the morning that opens the day,
That ends my long journey to old Iowa.



Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK, Editor.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1865. Terms—One dollar per year, payable in advance.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Oct. 13, 1864.

Dear Sir,—I consider the U. S. MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication...

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General...

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Oct. 13, 1864. Dear Sir,—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General...

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances...

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

The New Postal Law We publish in another column of the present number the act relating to the postal laws...

Look out for a fellow who is visiting post offices representing himself as a Government Detective, and by threats and otherwise, extorting money from postmasters.

Fred. A. Shears was arrested by Special Agent Sharretts on the 28th of December last, for purloining letters from the Daobury, Conn. Post Office...

Service in the mail department in India must be attended with difficulties. Lately, the native who acts as carrier between Barria and Siagon...

CARELESS PORTMARKING. We receive from postmasters complaints that the addresses of letters which reach them for delivery are often so defaced by the postmark being impressed on the names of the persons for whom the letters are intended...

POST-OFFICE BURGARS.—The post-office at Delhi, N. Y., was entered by burglars on the night of 25th Feb., and robbed of a portion of its contents. Only the letters in the general delivery boxes (in which was a package put up for the Dead Letter Office, were disturbed.

Mutilated Currency. The following circular has been prepared by the Post Office Department, and issued in reply to the numerous inquiries from postmasters on the subject of mutilated currency:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Finance Office, Washington, 1865. Sir:—In accordance with the request of the Treasury Department, the Postmaster General directs you to receive, in payment for postage stamps and stamped envelopes, United States Notes, of which not more than one-twentieth is missing, and fractional notes, of which not more than one-tenth is missing, if clearly genuine.

You are not required to receive mutilated notes or currency except in the regular course of business, nor currency in amounts exceeding five dollars at one time, especially if it would embarrass you in meeting the orders or drafts of this Department.

These notes for circulation will be returned to the Treasurer U. S., Washington, D. C., according to the following rules, established by the Treasury Department, for the redemption of defaced and mutilated notes.

When the value of a package is one hundred dollars, or upwards, it may be sent by the Adams Express, at the cost of the Treasury Department. If sent by mail, it should always be registered.

Each Assistant Treasurer, or Designated Depository of the United States, or National Bank, designated as a Depository of the United States, will redeem fractional currency, not mutilated, as shown by the annexed rules. Through such agencies, also, mutilated currency can be transmitted to the Treasury Department.

Postmasters should especially report to this office any accumulation of uncurrent money that is likely to become embarrassing.

Very respectfully, A. N. LAYVEL, Third Asst. P. M. General.

First.—Mutilated notes, that have been torn, no matter how much, but of which it is evident that all the fragments are returned or defaced, no matter how badly, but certainly, satisfactorily genuine, will be redeemed at their full face value on presentation.

Second.—Until further orders, mutilated notes and fragments will be redeemed only at the Treasury of the United States at Washington, whether they can be sent, addressed to the Treasurer of the United States, or drawn on the Assistant Treasurer at New York, for the amount allowed, will be returned by mail, to the address of the person remitting the same.

These rules, promulgated on the 15th of May, 1862, for the redemption of mutilated United States Notes, are not intended to apply to such notes of which the abrasion or loss of substance from the corners or edges does not exceed one-twentieth of their original proportions.

Third.—All fractional currency, not mutilated, when presented for redemption to an Assistant Treasurer or Designated Depository of the United States, or a National Bank, designated as a Depository of the United States, must have been ascertained by the holder, according to denominations, with the faces and upper sides in corresponding order in the packages.

When presented in sufficient numbers, each package must contain one hundred pieces; it must be securely pinned, with a paper strap at least one inch wide, and on the strap must be written, in ink, the number of pieces, denomination, date of deposit, and the name of the owner.

The entire deposit must be securely done up in one package, and upon the wrapper, endorsed with ink, the date of the deposit, the amount contained, and the name and residence of the owner.

No less sum than three dollars, when redeemed, and packages will be paid for in lawful money of the United States, in the order, as to time, in which they shall have been received, as soon as the currency can be counted and passed upon.

All Government officers will receive for public dues all United States notes of the several kinds, and on account for which they are respectively receivable, per Treasury Circular of October 9, 1862, in explanation of the rules promulgated May 15, 1862, no matter how badly defaced or torn they may be, so long as their genuineness can be clearly ascertained, and so that it is certain that not one-twentieth part thereof is missing.

Fourth.—Mutilated fractional currency, from which not one-tenth part is missing, should be kept separate and distinct, and, as occasion may require, be returned to the Treasury of the United States, and the same shall be received, from which not one-tenth part is missing, will be received in the same manner.

The following is a copy of a letter in reply to one addressed to the Postmaster General by members of the United States Senate, requesting that certain documents bearing their frank, and intended to aid in a most praiseworthy and patriotic enterprise, might be permitted to pass free in the mails, although not strictly entitled to that privilege.

It will be seen that, though the benevolent object referred to has of course the hearty sympathy of the Postmaster-General, he is unable, for the several reasons given in the letter, to comply with the request of the Senators.

As a clear and explicit definition of the limits of the franking privilege of Members of Congress, we commend the perusal of the letter to postmasters, as also to those who solicit (and we regret to say, sometimes obtain) from M. C.'s the use of their frank to cover business letters and circulars.

If the franking privilege cannot rightly be extended beyond the prescribed limits, even in aid of our soldiers "pick and in prison" for their country's sake—how much less can it be so extended for the purpose of saving the expense of purchasing postage on letters, circulars and pamphlets, intended to further schemes of private advantage.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Appointment Office, Washington, Feb. 16, 1865.

GENTLEMEN:—I am instructed by the Postmaster General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., and to say, that while he fully appreciates the importance of furnishing the public with correct information on the subject of the treatment and sufferings of our brave men who unfortunately are prisoners in the hands of the rebels, and would willingly lend all proper aid in his power to accomplish this object, he cannot, with his sense of official duty, direct the Postmaster of Boston to respect, at his office, the franks of Members of the Senate or House of Representatives, while they are sojourning at the seat of Government.

For can he authorize the use of fac simile stamps for the purpose of franking matter passing through the mails.

The franking privilege to Senators and Members of Congress is a personal one, and travels with the party entitled to it, and cannot be exercised in two or more places at the same time.

party entitled to it, and cannot be exercised in two or more places at the same time. By the terms of the law, it is "to cover correspondence by and from them, and of printed matter issued by authority of Congress, and all speeches, proceedings, debates to Congress, and all printed matter sent to them," thus limiting the privilege to the matter herein named.

Consequently, if it comes to the knowledge of a postmaster that a package bearing a proper frank is composed of matter not named in the law, it becomes his duty to disregard such frank, and charge postage thereon.

The standing regulations of the Department provide that "no privileged person can authorize his clerk, or any other person, to write (or stamp) his name for the purpose of franking any letter or packet."

"The personal privilege of franking travels with the person possessing it, and can be exercised in but one place at the same time."

"No privileged person can leave his frank behind him to cover his correspondence in his absence."

"If letters or papers be put into a post office bearing the frank of a privileged person, who notoriously has not been in that vicinity for several days," it is the duty of the postmaster to treat them as unpaid.

"Postmasters are requested to report to the Department all violations of the franking privilege."

"If letters or papers be put into a post office bearing the frank of a privileged person, who notoriously has not been in that vicinity for several days," it is the duty of the postmaster to treat them as unpaid.

"From the foregoing you will see that the Postmaster General cannot with consistency or propriety comply with the request contained in your letter."

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, A. W. RANDALL, First Assistant Postmaster General.

Hon. _____, United States Senate.

The New Postal Law. AN ACT RELATING TO THE POSTAL LAWS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled: That all domestic letters, except letters lawfully franked, and duly certified letters of soldiers, sailors, and marines, in the service of the United States, which are deposited for mailing in any post office of the United States, on which the postage is unpaid, shall be sent by the postmaster to the Dead Letter Office in Washington; and all letters deposited for mailing, paid only in part, shall be forwarded to destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the provisions of the act entitled "An act for the relief of postmasters who have been robbed by Confederate forces or rebel guerrillas," approved April twenty-nine, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, be, and the same are hereby, extended to cases of loyal postmasters, where, by reason of the presence of armed forces, a post office is destroyed and the postmaster loses the fixtures and furniture or postage stamps and stamped envelopes; and also to cases where such losses are occasioned by armed forces other than those of the so-called Confederate States.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That, in addition to the items of rent, light, and clerks, enumerated in the fifth section of the act approved July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to allow, at his discretion, out of the revenues of the office at New York, and of offices of the first, second, third, and fourth classes, a just and reasonable sum for the necessary cost, in whole or in part, of all of the foregoing items, as of furniture, stationery, printing, and other items of expenditure required at offices of those classes, to be adjusted upon a satisfactory exhibit of the facts; and that he be authorized to pay out of the proceeds of the money-order business the cost of stationery and of other incidental expenses as are necessary to the transaction of that business.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the seventh section of the act entitled "An act to amend the laws relating to the Post Office Department," approved March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to authorize the Postmaster General to assist in the publication, in newspapers, of a list of non-delivered letters at any post office, compensation at a rate not to exceed two cents for each letter so advertised.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That the seventh section of the act entitled "An act to establish salaries for postmasters, and for other purposes," approved July one, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to restore, from the date of its passage, to the Special Agent of the Post Office Department in the Pacific States and Territories, his regular salary of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum, under act of March two, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, with an allowance thereto, of a sum not exceeding five dollars per diem, to provide for his actual travelling and incidental expenses while actively employed in the service. And the postmaster General is hereby authorized to appoint an additional Special Agent for the Pacific States and Territories, and two additional Special Agents to superintend postal matters connected with the railway mail service of the United States, who shall receive the same salary and per diem allowance for travelling and incidental expenses, to be paid out of the appropriation for rail transportation.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That hereafter Special Agents of the Post Office Department, other than those appointed for the Pacific States and Territories, or those appointed under the authority of the seventh section of this act to superintend postal matters connected with the railway service of the United States, shall be allowed for their necessary travelling and incidental expenses, while actively employed in the service, a sum not exceeding five dollars per diem.

SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby, authorized to pay out of the appropriation for miscellaneous expenses, the sum of ten thousand dollars, or such lesser sum as may be required, for defraying the necessary expense of preparing and publishing a set of post-route maps, arranged by States and groups of States, and showing all the permanent mail routes, distances, and post offices thereon, in the United States, with other statistical information.

SEC. 8. And be it further enacted, That for the purpose of assisting in distributing letters and other mail matter in railway post offices, the Postmaster General may, from time to time, appoint clerks, who shall be paid out of the appropriation for mail transportation: provided, that the salary of each head clerk so appointed and employed shall not exceed fourteen hundred dollars per annum, and that the salary of other clerks shall not exceed twelve hundred dollars each per annum.

SEC. 9. And be it further enacted, That the provisions of the fourth section of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-one," approved June fifteen, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, be, and the same are hereby, modified so as to authorize the Postmaster General to cause the mails to be transported between the United States and any foreign port or ports, or between ports of the United States, touching at a foreign port, by steamship, allowing and paying therefor, if by an American vessel, any sum not exceeding the sea and United States land postage, and if by a foreign vessel, any sum not exceeding the sea postage on the mails so conveyed.

SEC. 10. And be it further enacted, That no steamship or other vessel departing from the United States for a foreign port or ports, shall be permitted to receive on board or convey any letters or letter packets originating in the United States, which have not been regularly posted at, and received from the post office at the port of departure; and it shall be the duty of the collector or other officer of the port empowered to grant clearance of vessels, to require as a condition of clearance, from the master or commander of such steamship or vessel, an oath or affirmation that he has not received on board his ship or vessel, and has not under his care or control, any letters or letter packets addressed to a foreign country, except as hereinbefore excepted, which have not been delivered to him from the post office at the port of departure: Provided, however, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to any letters or letter packets which relate to the cargo and are addressed to the owner or consignee of such steamship or other vessel, or to any letters or packets which are enclosed in a United States stamped envelope of a denomination sufficient in value to cover the United States postage legally chargeable thereon, if such letters or packets had been posted on land transmitted by the regular mail.

SEC. 11. And be it further enacted, That nothing contained in the act entitled "An act to establish a postal money-order system," approved May seven, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, or in any other act, shall be construed so as to prevent deputy postmasters at money order or other offices from depositing in the national banks designated by the Secretary of the Treasury as public depositories, to their own credit as deputy postmasters, money-order or other funds in their charge, under the direction of the Postmaster General, nor to prevent their negotiating such orders, or other evidences of debt through these banks, as they may be instructed and required by the Postmaster General.

SEC. 12. And be it further enacted, That the balance which may remain unexpended of the appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars to meet any deficiencies in the proceeds of the money-order system during the present fiscal year, under the thirteenth section of the act approved July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, may be used, for as may be necessary, to supply deficiencies in the proceeds of the aforesaid system during the fiscal year commencing July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-five.

SEC. 13. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall willfully and maliciously injure, tear down, or destroy any letter-box, pillar-box, or other receiving boxes established by authority of the Postmaster General of the United States for the safe deposit of matter for the mails and for delivery; or shall willfully aid and assist in injuring, tearing down, or destroying any such box or boxes, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined not less than one hundred, nor more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one year, nor more than two years, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence. And if any clerk or other person employed in any of the departments of the Post Office establishment shall willfully and unlawfully remove from any letter posted at or received in any post office or branch post office, of the United States, or the Postmaster General, any postage stamp or stamps affixed thereto in payment of postage, or every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined not more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence.

SEC. 14. And be it further enacted, That the yearly advertisement for postage to carry the mails of the United States shall be published hereafter for a period of six weeks in one or more, but not to exceed five, newspapers, printed in the State or Territory where the mail service is to be performed, one of which shall be printed at the seat of government of such State or Territory.

SEC. 15. And be it further enacted, That nothing contained in the act entitled "An act to amend the laws relating to the Post Office Department," approved March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, shall be construed so as to repeal or modify the second section of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-one," for the delivery of letters and other mail matter from post offices where the system of free delivery by carriers has not been established: provided, nevertheless, and it is hereby further enacted, That the system of free delivery shall be established in every place containing a population of fifty thousand within the delivery of the office thereof, and at such other places as the Postmaster General, in his judgment, shall direct: And further provided, That the prepayment postage on drop letters in all places where free delivery is not established shall be one cent only.

SEC. 16. And be it further enacted, That no obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication of a vulgar and indecent character, shall be admitted into the mails of the United States; and any person or persons who shall deposit or cause to be deposited in any post office or branch post office of the United States, for mailing or for delivery, an obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication, knowing the same to be of a vulgar and indecent character, or being duly convicted thereof, shall, for every such offence, be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offence.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—Hereafter, each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail will bear a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whom this number reaches marked 54, or a lower number, will please remark at once.

The difficulties ensuing the suspension of the overland mail to California have not yet been removed. The delay caused by the turning back of mails already on their way at the time of the suspension, caused many inquiries for missing letters, which letters have now nearly all made their appearance to the great relief of anxious wives and agitated business men.

Answers to Correspondents. [We receive (and are glad to do so) a large number of inquiries and communications from our subscribers, referring to postal matters, and we endeavor to give careful and correct answers in most cases. It is impossible, however, to reply to all the questions which we receive, and we are obliged to select those which seem to be the most important. It cannot fairly be expected of us to reply specially to those inquiries, an answer to which will be readily found by consulting the standing columns of information which appear every month in our paper; nor to those which ask whether the writer may, for the convenience of himself or others, disregard what he knows to be the law or a regulation of the Department; nor to those which merely give opinions as to what the law ought to be; nor to those which do not refer to postal matters. A careful and attentive perusal of the Law or Regulation upon a subject in regard to which information is desired may very often render the matter so clear as to obviate any necessity of further inquiry. At the same time, we hope none of our subscribers will hesitate to address us in reference to any postal question on which they may be really in doubt after such perusal.]

A. S. S. of R.—Pa.—Rate on letter paper, two cents for four ounces. Buckskin gloves, letter rates.

M. T. E. of P.—Ct.—We have no means of assisting you in procuring a reconsideration of the matter you refer to.

A. B. R. of S.—Ct.—Collect regular rate in specie if offered. The premium in that case is to be regarded as an overcharge, and you will take credit for it accordingly.

E. Y. of T.—a.—You are to enter on your account of mails received the full amount (including dead letters) charged on the bill from the D. F. O. from which you receive them, but you should keep a separate account of the dead letters, and then, in your account current, separate the two classes of unpaid matter as described in the February number. Make no alteration in the printed figures of the blanks furnished by the Department.

S. S. of C.—Ills.—None but sworn carriers can legally carry the mail, and a P. M. is not justified in delivering it to the custody of any person who may volunteer to carry it. Report to Department if the practice continues.

T. L. M. of Ohio.—You cannot be too careful in the delivery of mail matter. "Uniform practice," although approved by nine-tenths of the people," cannot justify a P. M. in the violation of the Law or Regulations, and he has no right for the purpose of saving either time or trouble to deliver one citizen's mail matter to another, unless he knows the latter to be authorized to receive it. If a letter reaches your office addressed to John Smith, you will give your duty in retaining it until that gentleman, or some one duly authorized by him, calls for it. We should think that a tolerable manner, and the exercise of ordinary discretion, would enable you to come as near to "pleasing all classes" in this matter as it is possible for most P. M.'s to do. The "practice of reading off the addresses of letters and papers as soon as the mails are opened, and handing them out to all who may claim them," seems to us to be an objectionable one in several respects, and we have known serious trouble to arise from it. If a letter or paper is worth having, it is worth asking for—and it seems to us that no very long time would be required to enable you to know how to deliver the correspondence which reaches your office correctly. As for the "scoldings" of your neighbors, no reasonable person would scold you for being too careful in so important a matter—while the unreasonable ones will never be at a loss for something to scold about.

G. M. B. of W.—Ind.—All such losses should be reported, at the time, to the Second Assistant Postmaster General, Washington.

T. C. R. of S.—Ohio.—All quarterly or yearly postage must be prepaid in money. Stamps can only be used in the prepayment of transient postage.

P. M. of A.—Ohio.—A P. M. has nothing to do with the contents of a registered letter, nor should he state the amount of such contents in the receipt. The amount of the registry fee does not depend at all on the amount contained in the letter. It is evident that you need to study the regulations in regard to registered letters, and we recommend you to do so carefully.

R. M. V. F. of Y.—Mich.—It is a sufficient answer to your question to remind you that the law requires all box rents to be paid in advance.

J. R. S. of L.—Me.—Postage on clothing to soldiers is not paid by the ounce but by every four ounces, or fraction thereof, so that a package weighing four ounces and a half is charged the same as one weighing eight ounces, &c.

P. M. of ————You are not obliged to write the names on the papers of club subscribers.

D. F. B. of S.—Mass.—Postage cannot be paid at quarterly rates for a less term than three months, under any circumstances. A six-weeks' subscriber must either pay transient postage for that time, or three months' postage at quarterly rates.

P. M. of ————A P. M. at a small office is not expected to sell a large quantity of stamps to one individual, if, by so doing, he is likely to exhaust his stock before he can obtain a further supply.

C. S. Jr. of W.—Pa.—In case of a dispute as to whether a paper is entitled to the privilege of a "small, religious or educational paper," send a copy to the First Assistant Postmaster General, and request a decision of the matter.

C. D. J. of P.—W. Va.—Revenue stamps are not to be recognized, under any circumstances, as paying postage on mail matter to which they may be attached. A package bearing revenue stamps of ten times the value of the postage should still be treated as unpaid.

E. V. W. of N.—N. Y.—You will find in your account current an item under which you or to credit yourself with the amount of compensation due you for the quarter.

FILE THE "MAIL."—We earnestly recommend to our subscribers that they shall keep a file of the Mail. It is intended for reference as well as perusal, and if preserved may often be found useful for that purpose. We frequently receive from old subscribers questions which have been two or three times answered in our columns. A consultation of back numbers, if they had preserved them, would have saved time and trouble to them and to us.

We have to apologize for the late appearance of our paper this month. It is caused by the unavoidable absence of the editor on official business, and by delay in procuring a copy of the new law, which we were desirous of placing before our readers in this number of our paper.

UNIFIED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. V., No. 7.

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1865.

WHOLE No. 55.

Money-Order Instructions.

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF THE TREASURY,
FOR THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONEY-ORDER DIVISION.

The attention of Postmasters at Money-Order Offices is respectfully called to the following instructions, with which they are requested to familiarize themselves and render faithful compliance:

MAKING UP ACCOUNTS.

For the convenience of the Auditor's Office, accounts should be made up in the following uniform manner: It more than one sheet be necessarily used, the account should commence with money orders issued, and the summary of business should always be upon the last (outside) page. Avoid lashing the sheets together at the edges, as they have to be separated in the Auditor's Office in order to form them into books.

The sheets must not be lengthened out by cutting and inserting more paper between the parts, nor should anything be pasted on to extend beyond the original sheet.

In folding the account avoid rubbing down the fold with any hard substance, as it breaks the paper.

Great care should be taken in entering the names of the remitter and payee, and the amount of the order; and to secure the requisite accuracy in this respect, it is necessary to call off the entries after they have been made, and correct any errors that may have occurred. Errors too frequently occur both in the name of the payee and the amount of the order.

The addition of the columns of issued and paid orders should always be performed independent of the books, and the result compared therewith; and if correct, the aggregate should be carried into the summary. Proper care to secure accuracy in the above respects will save postmasters much future trouble and the Auditor's Office much annoyance.

It is desirable that the weekly account should be made on a single sheet, where it can be done so intelligibly; to accomplish this, the following suggestions are made: If more space is wanted for money-orders paid than is contained in a single sheet, the pen may be drawn through the heading of "advices of orders drawn and not presented," and the entry of paid orders extended to the bottom of the page. The "advices" in that case may be entered on the reverse side, if the space is not otherwise occupied, in which case the proper heading must be entered in writing. The advices may also be interlined, if the lines are not enough apart to admit it, or two columns may be entered in the space intended for one, by ruling an extra column, thus:

"Advices of orders drawn and not presented," &c.

No. 40, Oswego...	\$11 00	No. 1209, Nashville...	\$20 00
" 105, Philadelphia...	8 00	" 81, Annapolis...	30 00
" 913, Nashville...	30 00	" 82, " "	30 00
" 106, Philadelphia...	8 00	" 83, " "	30 00

But this privilege of entering extra columns must never extend to issued or paid orders; only to advices. Interlining, however, may be allowed to a limited extent in case of both issued and paid orders, if the lines are wide enough apart to admit it.

In following these suggestions it is expected that postmasters will exercise judgment and discretion.

The object of this economy is not merely the saving of the blank, though that would be commendable, but it is necessary in order to accommodate the returns to skeleton books which have been prepared for their preservation, and in which there is generally room for only one sheet.

Where, by following these instructions, the business of any office would absolutely require the use of more than one sheet, more must be used.

The instructions under this head are intended especially for a class of offices next below the larger size, but it is equally desirable that all the larger offices should profit by them and get their returns into as small compass as possible, with due regard to intelligibility.

PAYMENT OF MONEY ORDERS.

Before making payment of money orders, it is necessary to examine the letter of advice and see that the proper signature is affixed to the receipt. As a general rule the receipt should conform strictly to the advice, and must never be inconsistent therewith. Thus, if an order is payable to J. B. Brown & Co., the receipt or endorsement should be J. B. Brown & Co., and not Geo. Brown, though the latter may be a member of the firm. If payable to Geo. Brown, the receipt should be Geo. Brown, and not J. B. Brown & Co. If payable to the Register of Deeds, the receipt should be A. B., Register of Deeds, and not merely A. B. If payable to a newspaper, as The Farmer, it should be received C. D., Pub'r, of Farmer. The object being to conform to the established usage of banking associations.

Where orders are payable at a bank, the usual signature of the proper officer is sufficient. It is also sufficient that an order be signed with the initials in part, thus: G. W. Brown, though the advice may be George Washington Brown. If any material discrepancy appears between the signature and advice, payment should be refused until the discrepancy is removed. If the discrepancy is immaterial the postmaster should pay it, being careful to notice and explain the discrepancy on the margin of the order.

The prefix of Mrs. and Miss, though given in the advice, should never be required in the receipt; yet, if signed voluntarily in that manner, there will be no objection.

REPAID ORDERS.

Repaid orders should never be entered with nor added to the paid orders. Nor should any other item of debit or credit ever be added to the amount of orders issued or paid. Repaid orders should be receipted by the remitter, and the word repaid written across the face of the order. If more than one repaid order enters into the same account, they should be added together on some other part of the statement, unless there is a place in the summary for that purpose, and the aggregate carried into the credit column in one item.

WITNESS TO SIGNATURE.

It is desirable that the signature to the receipt should be in English. If other than English or German characters, the name should be written in English by the postmaster or some person designated by the payee, and witnessed, and the name of the witness written opposite. It is not necessary that the witness should be personally acquainted with the payee, though the name must be read to him, and he must acknowledge that he is the identical person named, and that the name as read to him is correct.

DEPOSITS.

Many accounts are returned to the Auditor's Office in which credits are claimed for deposits several days, sometimes weeks, before the certificates of deposit relating to such credits are received, thereby rendering it necessary to suspend the settlement of the account. In order to avoid this delay, it is requested that remittances be made some days before the date of making up the account. As a general rule, it is suggested that remittances made before Friday be entered as credits; but if made on Friday or Saturday, that credit thereof be taken in the next weekly statement. If, on making up the account under this rule, the balance proves larger than is authorized to be retained as a reserve, the surplus must be remitted, and a note thereof made on the lower margin of the account, lest the postmaster should render himself liable to the charge of retaining funds contrary to the rules.

Certificates of deposit should always be forwarded immediately after the receipt of the money.

Where the deposit in any one account, either as debit or credit, is composed of more than one item, a detailed statement thereof should be made either on the upper part of the account above the summary or on a separate slip of paper and enclosed, and the aggregate carried into the summary in one item. In the blank space a place is provided for this purpose in the summary.

FINAL EXAMINATION.

Before mailing the account it should always be examined carefully with reference to the following points:

First. To see that all the money orders issued during the week are entered, that the numbers follow in regular order, and that none are omitted at the close.

Second. That all the paid orders are entered, that the number of paid orders enclosed corresponds with the number of entries thereof, and that all the orders are stamped.

Third. That the additions are correct, and that the correct balance is brought forward.

Fourth. That the repaid orders are enclosed in the statement.

Fifth. That the dates are all filled in at the top, and that the account is signed.

E. SELLS, Auditor.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 1, 1865.

NOTE.—The words in italics in the foregoing generally signify that postmasters are cautioned to observe. Should another copy of these instructions at any time be received by the postmaster, with red lines drawn underneath certain words, he will understand that he is remiss in the manner indicated.

For the U. S. Mail.

One of the Mysterious Cases.

P. O., G. — Pa., March 1, 1864.

Editors Mail:—"Uncle Sam" has doubtless a good many delinquencies to answer for. Whether any later Pandias, with equally numerous dependents, could manage his extensive household with less well-founded complaint, or without an occasional "loosening of the screws" of the well-adjusted machinery necessary to the efficient administration of so large a government may be a question for fair discussion. That the old gentleman, however, is often held responsible for misdoings, with which neither he nor his agents have anything to do more than "the man in the moon," is certainly true. Of this the readers of the Mail, and every P. M., ought to be a reader—are kept apprised from time to time. Of this I am reminded by one of those "mysterious" losses by mail, which occasionally trouble conscientious P. M.'s, andaffle sharp-witted Special Agents—the denouement of which may probably furnish the key to the solution of other cases equally mysterious.

In July last Mr. B., a prominent merchant of this place, received notice that in March preceding, Rev. H., of J. — Pa., had mailed him a letter enclosing \$20, which had not been acknowledged. Mr. B. replied that no such letter had been received—that there must have been some mistake about the mailing of the letter, as he had a box in the office at that place, the contents of which were daily lifted by himself, or a trusty clerk, and that in the course of a large business, involving frequent remittances to him by mail, he had no recollection of ever losing anything, &c.

The reply to this was a letter from Rev. H., asserting positively that the letter, with \$20 enclosed, had been mailed on the 6th of March, accompanied by a certificate from the P. M. at J. — that on the 6th of March he had mailed two letters from his office, including one deposited by Rev. H., with \$20 enclosed. An examination of the Register of Mails Received, showed that the P. O. at L. was credited with two letters, rated 6 cents, prepaid by stamps, way-billed March 6. This, of course, made out the case, and traced the missing letter to this office. Further examination, however, failed to develop any light on the subject. The matter seemed to involve an inpenetrable mystery, and as all the parties in interest were above suspicion, Mr. B. concluded to pocket the loss, and credited Rev. H. with \$20 on account.

So the matter rested until a few weeks ago, when Mr. B. received another letter from Rev. H., enclosing the missing letter, with \$20 touched, with the explanation that in taking a book from his library the letter dropped out. It had never been mailed at all! Rev. H. of course was honestly under the impression that he had mailed the letter, but will learn the propriety of less positiveness in relying upon a treacherous memory; while the worthy P. M. at J. — will doubtless be more guarded in future in giving positive certificates, however respectable the authority on which they may be based.

The solution of the mystery in this case may furnish the key to others equally mysterious, and as such I give it to you—simply vouching for the truthfulness of the facts as herein presented.

Respectfully Yours, R. A. C.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

The general purpose of my letters ought to be understood by this time, by those for whose immediate benefit they are written; yet, it appears, exceptions are taken to my fault-finding in that, I expect perfection of system, and the performance of impossible duties, in post offices. That's an error. I neither expect nor desire anything of the kind. The circle may be squared, perpetual motion may be discovered, the circumnavigation of the air may become as safe and certain as land and water travel, and balloon lines may compete successfully with railroads and steamships for patronage; elephants may be found on "John Brown's tract," whales in the Ohio river, petroleum on Nantucket shoals, but official perfection—ah! that's another thing entirely. I do not profess to understand all the ramified duties of post-office officials, nor will I gain say their right to haul me over the coals when I make statements which cannot be sustained; but having taken a good deal of pains to get at the most of the facts which I have heretofore communicated, I am inclined to believe that I am too near the truth to take back anything. I have made no new discoveries, I have only given tangibility to what, in many localities, is common rumor—and any one who will interest himself as much as I have, and go over the same ground, will find much to censure which I benevolently passed over. I do not wish to be understood as attaching blame to every post office—not I, indeed; many of them are skilfully, popularly and correctly managed, and have won and worthily wear merited public approbation—but many are not, and these are the ones to whom I would be a missionary. And here again comes up the interrogatory—mildly, if you please: "Pray Monsieur Tonson, what business is it of yours whether post offices are illy or ably conducted?" "None in the world, my dear sir, except a desire to promote the public good." And, in addition, I would say to my imaginary interlocutor, I do not confine my self-established censureship to the postal arm of the Government—for through public channels I find means of exerting encouragement, to apparently inefficient or passive functionaries in the other departments; but if the question were asked by some one connected with a well regulated office, I should shield myself under the wing of "Mr. Toodies," and reply, "not that ma-an—but another man."

I take the ground that if a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well; and assuming that official duties are worth doing, my opinion is that they should be well done—which means carefully, energetically, cheerfully, satisfactorily and promptly. The adherence to ancient rules and customs, sometimes given as an excuse for the careless and indifferent and eminently unsatisfactory administration of official duties, is contrary to the spirit of progress. If this idea had been impressed upon and followed by our forefathers, where would we be now? But enough of didactics for this time.

I would not have the assurance or temerity to interfere with the domestic comfort of any postmaster or his clerks, but I venture to suggest that I think it highly improper to close an office where mails arrive daily while the aforesaid and above-mentioned go on a long distance to their dinners. It is certainly patience-trying, after having hastened on limited time to the post office for an anxiously expected letter, to find the doors locked, and to be told by the gentleman overhead, across the street, or next door, that "the office will be open in about an hour," accompanied with the invitation to "come in and take a seat." Indeed, the effect on some temperaments might superinduce the use of profane language—just think of it.

In a former letter I spoke of the impropriety of delivering letters to children—the practice still continues in many places—and I suppose, of course, frequent losses occur. Just imagine a chubby little four or five year old, waddling up near enough to the delivery window so as to be not hid from view entirely, and shouting out at the top of his young lungs, "Is you dot a wettler for my muma?" and if there is a letter it is handed over, and the child goes forth with it, to lose it, or to carry it home, as luck, not judgment, may decide. It is a singular fact that, at offices where such indifference to the safety of letters is manifested, the boy element is being opened, they collect by scrolls in the vestibules, and in the language of the great American traveler, Daniel Pratt, "they raise Cain generally."

They play "tag" and take advantage of the openings between elderly gentlemen's legs to escape from their pursuers; they play "hide and seek" and ensconce themselves beneath the elderly gentleman's coat tails, who, unaware of the fact, attempts to step rearwards and "comes down with a run;" they push and pull, and wrestle and fight, but they are not disturbed in their pleasing juvenile exercises—while from numberless pursed up mouths ear-splitting

whistles are forced in every key, flat, sharp or natural, from the gravest to the shrillest note in the musical scale. These interesting youths know well enough that their "innocent pranks" are not distasteful to the *maître de la poste*, and as it is nobody else's business, they continue uninterrupted until the mail matter is ready for delivery, when they make a simultaneous rush for boxes and drawers; and having obtained their letters and papers, they leave the premises with yells and whoops, and females and old people are then able to help themselves or to be helped, as the case may be.

The recent floods having materially interfered with my petroleum interest, by a general wiping out and washing away; and railroad travel, generally, being very risky, I have laid up in ordinary for several weeks, but as soon as it is safe to recommence my wanderings, I will be up and off again.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

THAT "SECRET AGENT" AGAIN.—One "James H. Hammond," alias Lewis—the sums individually to whom we referred in a paragraph in our last number—is still at large, and representing himself as a Special Agent of the Post Office Department, and also as a "Secret Agent of the U. S. Secret Service," acting under authority from Gen. Dix, has been lately, with more or less success, attempting to victimize postmasters by obtaining money under threats of prosecution for passing counterfeit money, &c. Any of our subscribers on whom he may attempt to practice his "little game," will confer a public benefit by securing for him an introduction to a Deputy U. S. Marshal.

As a sample of this gentleman's mode of operation, we give a copy of a letter lately received by a postmaster in the interior of New York:

J. H. E., Postmaster.—Sir: There is much dissatisfaction in certain quarters because you have been appointed postmaster. A long string of complaints have been made against you to the Postmaster General. You will probably be visited soon by one of the special Post Office Agents, be sure and have your office and all its things in order, &c. You have enemies who are determined to crush you; it will be for your interest to have everything in good order. A government agent, he will find you all right. The report in Utica is that you are a counterfeiter, &c.

Truly, &c., J. P. WRIGHT.

This was soon followed by the appearance of the "agent" (who, it is needless to say, was himself the writer of the above.) The "counterfeit money" dodge was "tried out," but wouldn't fly—and "Mr. Hammond" generously left with his intended victim the following certificate:

(OFFICIAL)

S. —, N. Y.,

MARCH 8, 1865.

To the Postmaster of S. — and all others interested:

In pursuance of an order issued under Martial Law to the Northern Department of the U. S. Army, dated March 3, 1865, to me directed, I have made such examination as in my judgment circumstances seemed to justify, of the nine complaints preferred against the Postal Agent—Deputy E. J. I do not find anything as a base on which these charges can be sustained, and I sincerely believe the complaints to have been originated in *malice and ill-will*, and as such cause for any criminal service against the person of Deputy Postal Agent E.

I am happy to find the Postal records, &c., kept in a suitable place and in a suitable manner, and I am happy in testifying to the fact that the said agent for postal matters in S. —

is in my opinion well qualified for a faithful, attentive and impartial performance of the duties pertaining to the postal agency, and I do not find any dereliction from duty on his part, and with pleasure I can truly exonerate him from any undue intension towards the U. S. Government. I also sincerely believe him to be an honest, worthy and loyal American citizen, and that he is worthy the confidence of all well-disposed persons.

Each charge as set forth against him in the complaints have no foundation in truth, and by virtue of authority, I pledge the aid of the Government in bringing his accusers to justice. By virtue of authority, JAMES H. HAMMOND, Secret Agent of the U. S. Secret Service.

Endorsed on the envelope "Official," Delivered in person, March 8, 1865.

THE "DAWK WALAS," OR MAIL CARRIERS OF BENGAL.—The manner of conveying the mails between the different stations of the Bengal Presidency is in small boxes or bags, slung on bamboo poles over the shoulders of the carriers—the boxes containing small packages and the bags the letters. The dawk walas, who usually belong to the coolie caste, carry their burdens at a smart trot, a distance of from eight to ten miles; that being the length of road between each dawk station. Having completed this run, which is accomplished in about an hour and a quarter, the bags, &c., are handed to a relay, who are waiting in expectation of their arrival at the next dawk-house, or shed—for it is, in most cases, little better than four mud walls and a thatched roof. The dawk is then transferred to the shoulders of the expectant relief with as little delay as possible, often without halting. The men relieved then take their seats in the shed, and untie from their girdles a small bundle of parched rice, which, with a cup of water, forms their frugal repast. These restaurateurs are followed by a smoke from the never-absent "gongory" (or pipe); and after a rest of an hour or so the dawk starts again, and the hard-working fellows are ready to convey it to the station from which it started in the morning. Thus the same party of dawk walas are kept running on the same ten miles of road; and are

almost sure to have wives and families at one extremity of this distance.

At night a musalchio, or torch-bearer, is added to the number of runners, who usually travel in parties of three or four. The musalchio performs the double office of showing the road on a dark night, and, by waving his torch about, scaring any tigers or other wild animals that may be prowling near. In many parts of the road this precaution is absolutely necessary for the safety of the men, especially between Burdwan and Sheerghanty, this portion of the grand trunk road being much infested with tigers; and it is by no means a rare incident for the peon sent out in search of letter bags to find them in the road, and the poor runner no one knows where.

During the Sepoy rebellion in India, the dawks were frequently stopped by the mutineers and the letters "looted" (stolen.) This gave rise to various ingenious contrivances for concealing the communications between beleaguered parties of English—our method being to enclose the missive, written in Greek, in a quill. This plan was employed by the besieged party at Lucknow to communicate with General Havelock.

A Comprehensive Toast.

Hon. Robert H. Morris, at a dinner given on the occasion of his retirement from the office of Postmaster at New York, made the following remarks:

"Gentlemen, please fill your glasses for a toast. As I intend to toast a man you may not know, I deem it necessary, before mentioning his name, to tell you what sort of a man he is.

"He rises at 4 o'clock in the morning and works assiduously during the whole day, until 7 o'clock in the evening, goes to bed, to rise again at 4 o'clock, and again to work assiduously.

"If the gentlemen of the press—and there are some among us—incorrectly direct their newspapers for subscribers, it is the fault of the man intended to toast, if the papers do not reach those to whom they should have been addressed.

"If a publishing clerk omits to address a newspaper to a subscriber, it is the fault of the man I intend to toast that the subscriber does not get his paper.

"If a man writes a letter and seals it, and neglects to put any address upon it, it is the fault of the man I will toast, if the letter does not reach the person for whom it was intended.

"If an officer of a bank addresses a letter to Boston instead of New Orleans, it is the fault of the man I intend to toast, if the letter is lost.

"If a merchant's clerk puts a letter in his overcoat, and leaves that coat at his boarding-house, with the letter in his pocket, the man I will toast is to blame because the letter has not reached its destination.

"If a merchant scribbles up a letter he has written, between the leaves of his ledger, and locks that ledger in his safe, the man I will toast has caused the non-reception of that letter.

"If a poor debtor has no money to pay his dunning creditor, and writes a letter that he encloses fifty dollars, but encloses no money, having none to enclose, the man I will toast has stolen the money.

"If a good, warm-hearted, true friend, receives a letter from a dear (O) but poor friend, asking the loan of five dollars; and, desiring to be considered a good, warm-hearted, true friend, and at the same time to save his five dollars, writes a letter, saying, 'Dear friend, I enclose to you the five dollars,' but only wafers into the letters a small corner of the bill—the man I will toast has stolen the five dollars out of the letter, and in pulling it out torn the bill.

"If a railroad bridge is torn down or the draw left open, and the locomotive is not able to jump the gap, but drops into the river with the mail, the man I will toast has caused the failure of the mail.

This, gentlemen, is the stranger to you, whom I will toast. I give you, gentlemen—A POST-OFFICE CLERK!"

Letter Addresses.

This letter is to Wangelin,
Whose surname it is Dick;
Who for one hundred days did go
The Rebels for to lick.
He is with big Dave Porter's boys,
One forty-second Illinois,
Where he is acting Orderly,
Somewhere near Memphis, Tennessee.

Postmaster, My Dear Sir:—Please send this to no man
But Barnum P. T.—that illustrious showman;
He tickles the parents, the sons and the daughters;
They laugh and grow fat, as he pockets their
quarters.
Inventive, ingenious, instructive and funny,
He gives to the world the full worth of his money;
His speeches and essays are learned and witty,
His Museum, so famous, is in New York City.

Miss S. — E. S. — u, here's a letter for you,
So open it please and read it quite through,
You know who it's from without, seeing my name,
For I once lived near you in Wisconsin, Minn—

"To Albert Roberts this letter is sent;
The postage is paid; three cents I've spent;
He's from Connecticut, he does reside,
Where picking tobacco-worms is his pride."

"Speed the letter, speed thy flight,
Till you reach Greece Co., N. Y., you sight,
There lives William F. Chester, and 'tis his right,
To secure this letter on Tuesday night."

"To Patrick O'Connor, in Minnesota State,
At Vernon Post Office the distance is great;
The place where in Winter you will almost freeze,
And where you spend the Summer in catching fleas."

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Vol. V., No. 7

NEW YORK, MAY, 1865.

WHOLE No. 56.

In Memoriam—Abraham Lincoln—April 15, 1865.

(The following poem was read by its author, who is connected with the New York Post Office, at a meeting of the employees of that office held April 29, to give expression to their feelings in view of the recent great national calamity.)

The startled nation, with suspended breath
One instant stands,
Like a good vessel as it strikes the sands,
And reels, in audience with such a death,
And dies—and then—
There surges o'er the tide of mourning men
Such sorrows us no land hath ever known
In any era or in any zone.

O crime accurst!
By treason nursed!
Though shining marks were stricken down
When soldier martyrs won their crown,
And though along the battle's front
Fell those who bore the battle's brunt,
Still, still, oh! feeble tongue or pen,
Where are the words to utter, when
A nation in her sackcloth lies,
And weeps a President who dies,
From shore to shore, from sea to sea,
Just flushed with news of victory,
And now, the shadow of a crime
Blacker than any known to time,
Darkens the hearthstone and the wall,
The mansion and the cottage hall,
And thirty million hearts express
Their sorrow and their sore distress.

Our outward grief but faintly shows
How deep the stream of feeling flows,
And words scarce yield the faintest sense
Of suffering made the more intense
By knowledge that our President,
In royal purpose and intent,
Like "Saul before his fellows" stood
In statesmanship's high regard,
So often tempted, still so true—
His greatness with occasion grew,
And through the gloom and through the dark
He bore the nation's vital spark
Till Victory's eagle soared above
The banners of fraternal love!
We followed where he chose to lead,
And felt him equal to our need;
The love of Union that we breathe
Was such, we trusted all the rest,
The heritage our fathers gave
Was safe with him, as o'er the wave
He braved the treason dark and dire,
Till, purified by blood and fire,
It stood transfigured in the land,
Borne up by honest Lincoln's hand.

O name made sacred now by death!
O name against which no human breath
Dare fall. While party spite and spleen
Are as if equal had never been,
O name, no purer nobly known,
In honor equal to Washington—
Where are the laurels green enough for him,
Or where he found a fit funeral hymn?
A sadder, sorer grief we cannot know,
A darker, deeper crime time cannot show,
And if this mighty nation's pulse beats low
In token of this sudden weight of woe,
What need of wonder if its men we stand
As though a pestilence had touched the land!

Our chieftain sleeps!
A nation weeps!
And far and near, and loud and strong,
Its wail of anguish floats along.
A deed so curst,
Whose horror bars
Like thunder in clear sky of noon,
To startle action from the breast,
And make us all like weeping children go
Wringing our hands, and saying, *is it so?*
It cannot, mark the *depth of crime*
Should *mark the annals of this Christian time.*

For us, who knew
No man more true;
For us, whose hands
In closest bands
Had clasped the champion of the hour,
All thoughts are weak!
Or to the wreath
His name beneath,
In memory of the fallen tower
That straight and strong,
Against all wrong
Had held so long,
And held so strong
The grand Shekinah of our hope!
When Lincoln fell,
(Oh! saddest when!)
A nation's keel,
The wall of men
Went forth along the nation's slope,
And young and old,
In field and fold,
Had only tears
And only fears
Whose shadow darkens all the years.

O day so dark,
O form so stark,
What wonder that the hand of fate
Thus seen, we cannot understand,
Or why should fall upon the land
Calamity so dire, so deep,
So sudden, fit—as if asleep—
It still seems all a dream, a dream,
It still seems all a dream,
The President, the President,
Our honored, honest President!
Our grand and noble President!
And now—and now—
O, day of grief! oh, day of pain!
Such day can never come again.

As in the desert, in the dark,
The camel driver sends across
The sand the sound that serves to mark
His safety,—or in sign of loss—
And as no word comes answering back
From those who've wandered from the track,
And echo only through the gloom
Sends back the story of their doom,
So, in the desert of our grief,
We call in vain the nation's chief!
Lost to the nation's bitter cost,
Lost, in the hour we loved him most,
And through the gloom and through the night
We cannot catch one gleam of light,
And waiting anxiously and long
We only hear the sounds that throng
Death's chamber, and we know at last,
All hope and recognition past,
We, like these sand-lod travelers stand
A stricken people, in a mourning land.

WILLIAM E. PASO.
Hudson, N. Y., April 20th, 1865.

[OFFICIAL.]

INSTRUCTIONS

Under the New Postal Law.

We have received from the Department an advance copy of the Official Instructions to Postmasters, about to be issued with the Act of March 3d, 1865, which we published in the March number of the *Mail*. We also republish the sections of that law to which the Instructions refer:

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted, &c.* That all domestic letters except letters lawfully franked, and duly certified letters of soldiers, sailors, and marines in the service of the United States, which are deposited for mailing in any post office of the United States, on which the postage is unpaid, shall be sent by the postmaster to the Dead Letter Office, in Washington; and all letters deposited for mailing, paid only in part, shall be forwarded to destination, charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery.

INSTRUCTIONS.—(a.) Letters lawfully franked must be forwarded free as heretofore under section 42, act approved March 3d, 1863, and Instructions therewith issued, modified by act of June 1, 1864, which provides substantially: That all communications on official business, of whatever origin, addressed to heads of the Executive Departments of Government, or heads of bureaus therein, or to chief clerks of Departments or bureaus, or one authorized by the Postmaster General, to frank official matter, shall be received and conveyed by mail free of postage, without being franked or endorsed "Official Business."

(b.) All domestic letters partly prepaid, and soldiers' and sailors' letters duly certified according to Instruction 27, issued with act of March 3d, 1863, must be forwarded to their destinations charged with the amounts of postage due, at prepaid rates, to be collected on delivery, except letters bearing requests for their return to the writers if unclaimed, which, whether partly or wholly unpaid, must be marked "Held for postage," and immediately returned to the writers, with stamps not canceled.

(c.) All domestic letters wholly unpaid, including "Drops," (except "Request" letters above described) must be immediately marked "Held for postage," postmastered, and specially sent to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, accompanied by a list of persons addressed, a copy of which must be preserved by the Postmaster for reference. The package must be marked outside, "Held for postage."

(d.) All domestic letters upon which less than one full rate of postage is prepaid, must be treated as if wholly unpaid; the stamps must not be canceled.

(e.) Section 39, Laws and Instructions of 1863, relative to forwarding letters, remains unchanged.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the provisions of the act entitled "An act for the relief of postmasters who have been robbed by Confederate forces or rebel guerrillas," approved April twenty-nine, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, be, and the same are hereby, extended to cases of loyal postmasters, where, by reason of the presence of armed forces, a post office is destroyed, and the postmaster loses the fixtures and furniture or postage stamps and stamped envelopes; and also to cases where such losses are occasioned by armed forces other than those of the so-called Confederate States.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Postmasters seeking relief under the act of April 29, 1864, or under its provisions as above extended, will make a statement, under oath, as to the value of each particular item destroyed or stolen (as the case may be), and all the attending circumstances, and transmit the same promptly to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, accompanied by all other evidence that can be obtained in the particular case.

Where a claim is made for money so destroyed or stolen, the postmaster must also be able to state, positively, that it was the property of, and belonged to the United States, and that he had no claim to the same, or any portion thereof, by reason of commissions or salary due to him by the Department, or from any cause, matter, or thing, whatsoever.

Incontestable evidence must be produced of the past and present loyalty of the claimant.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That, in addition to the items of rent, fuel, light, and clerks, enumerated in the fifth section of the act approved July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, the Postmaster General be, and he is hereby authorized to allow, at his discretion, out of the revenues of the office at New York, and of offices of the first, second, third and fourth classes, a just and reasonable sum for the necessary cost, in whole or in part, as well of the foregoing items, as of furniture, stationery, printing, and other items of expenditure required at offices of those classes, to be adjusted upon a satisfactory exhibit of the facts; and that he be authorized to pay out of the proceeds of the money-order business the cost of stationery and such other incidental expenses as are necessary to the transaction of that business.

INSTRUCTIONS.—The necessary expenses of the first four classes of offices for the items named in the section, may be paid "in whole or in part" when authorized by the Postmaster General. The items of clerk-hire, rent, fuel, and lights, will be fixed by an order to be made on the receipt of an estimate from each postmaster, and shall remain for one year, or until otherwise ordered. Other items of expense (for furniture,

stationery, &c.) under this section must be made under special authority from the Postmaster General, and applications must be made to him for such authority previous to incurring such expense, accompanied with estimates.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the seventh section of the act entitled "An act to amend the laws relating to the Post Office Department," approved March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to authorize the Postmaster General to allow for the publication, in newspapers, of the list of non-delivered letters at any post office, compensation at a rate not to exceed two cents for each letter so advertised.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Postmasters who advertise letters in newspapers under Instruction No. 7, issued with act of March 3, 1863, are authorized to pay two cents for every letter so advertised. This charge is to be marked on each letter and collected on delivery.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing contained in the act entitled "An act to establish a postal money-order system," approved May seventeen, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, or in any other act, shall be so construed as to prevent deputy postmasters at money-order or other offices from depositing in the national banks, designated by the Secretary of the Treasury as public depositories, to their own credit as deputy postmasters, money-order or other funds in their charge, under the direction of the Postmaster General, nor to prevent their negotiating drafts, orders, or other evidences of debt through these banks, as they may be instructed and required by the Postmaster General.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Any postmaster who desires to deposit in the mode prescribed by this section, the public moneys in his custody, in a national bank designated by the Secretary of the Treasury as a public depository, should make written application to the Postmaster General for permission to make such deposits. The application should state explicitly the locality and name of the bank, together with the names of its officers, and also the date of its designation as a depository of public moneys.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or persons shall willfully and maliciously injure, tear down, or destroy any letter-box, pillar-box, or other receiving boxes established by authority of the Postmaster General of the United States for the safe deposit of matter for the mails and for delivery; or shall willfully aid and assist in injuring, tearing down, or destroying any such box or boxes, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offense, be fined not less than one hundred, nor more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one year, nor more than three years, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offense. And if any clerk or other person employed in any of the principal offices of the Post Office establishment shall willfully and unlawfully remove from any office, branch post office, or any post office or branch post office, established by authority of the Postmaster General of the United States, any postage stamp or stamps affixed thereto in payment of postage, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offense, be fined not more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months, according to the circumstances and aggravations of the offense.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Postmasters will report to the Department any violation of this section of the law, with the evidence relied on to prove the charge.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing contained in the law relating to the Post Office Department, approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, shall be so construed as to repeal or modify the second section of the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-one," for the delivery of letters and other mail matter from post offices where the system of free delivery by carriers has not been established; provided, nevertheless, and it is hereby further enacted, That the system of free delivery shall be established in every place containing a population of fifty thousand within the delivery of the office thereof, and at such other places as the Postmaster General, in his judgment, shall direct: And further provided, That the preparation postage on drop-letters in all places where free delivery is not established shall be one cent only.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Postmasters at offices where free delivery is not in operation—i.e. in their opinion it will be beneficial to the service—may nominate one or more suitable persons to act as Penny Post-men. Application for the appointment of such men must be made to the First Assistant Postmaster General. The general rules applicable to the free delivery system, as shown in Instructions under law of March 3d, 1863, will apply to the Penny Post delivery, except so far as relates to compensation of carriers.

Penny Post-men will receive no compensation other than that they may receive for delivering and collecting mail matter. They will demand not exceeding one cent for each letter, and one half cent for each newspaper they may deliver. The rate of postage on drop-letters, where free delivery does not exist, will be one cent, always to be prepaid by stamps, which will be furnished to postmasters upon application to the Department; but at free delivery offices the prepaid rates for "Drops" will be two cents as heretofore.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS.—Section 47, Regulations of 1863, and Instructions under section 32, act of March 3, 1863, are so modified as to require that every registered letter, or parcel of registered letters, with its appropriate bill, shall be mailed in a sealed envelope or wrapper, ad-

ressed to the Postmaster of the office to which it is destined, but in the same package with the unregistered letters sent from the mailing office by the same mail to the same destination. When registered letters are to pass through a distributing office, they must be billed and mailed to such distributing office, as if they were for delivery there, the letters "D. P. O." merely being added to the heading of the registered letter bill. *Never send a registered letter in a package of letters intended for distribution.*

The latter part of the last paragraph of Instruction, No. 28, Act of 1863, is so modified that no account need be kept of "Request" letters received from other offices for delivery to the writers; and in place of sending to this Department copies of the accounts required to be kept by the first part of said paragraph, a simple statement of the whole number of such letters sent back to the writers during each quarter, must be sent by special letter to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, never to be included in the quarterly returns.

Attention is also called to the necessity for erasing the whole original address, and properly marking such letters before returning them to the writers, as directed by Instructions aforesaid, as well as to the requirements of section 10, Law of 1864.

MONSIEUR TONSON AGAIN.

BETWEEN HUSTON AND BUFFALO.

Spring time is upon us, and the trees which have with unsheltered head and naked arms, withstood the shock of a wild, fierce winter, are beginning to shoot out buds and blossoms from their branches; and soon their green crowns will sway gracefully in the balmy air, redolent with the perfumes of flowers and musical with the sweet cadences of the joyous song-birds.

Perhaps I ought to rhapodize a little just here, but I couldn't if I would, and wouldn't if I could.

Spring and Love are so identified with each other, so perfectly commingled, that it would be impossible to apostrophize the one without the other, and as to composing an ode or singing a rhapsody about Love, without introducing Spring, or about Spring without introducing Love, it is not only preposterous but palpably impossible. In addition to this, it is my religious belief that there is enough of the ready-made article on hand for "Meet-me-by-moonlight alone" walks and talks, and other kindred common wants, to last for a century without going to the same pump, or fountain, if you please twice. Of course, I don't expect everybody to agree with me, and I, perhaps, thought differently myself in earlier days. I know sonnets will be written and madrigals sung whether I like it or not; and I don't intend to give myself any uneasiness on the subject. I will leave these eulogies, therefore, to those who worship them, and from the substantial enjoyments of the delightful season now bursting in all its loveliness upon us, take my share by gratifying my propensity for travelling, and yielding to the allurements of rural scenes and sounds.

What delicious excitement it is to follow the tortuous windings of mountain streams and coax the wary speckle-bucks from shady eddies, miniature cataracts and tiny whirlpools!

How invigorating equestrian and vehicular exercise over smooth roads and through green lawns! how interesting to watch the ploughman "driving his team afield!" how soothing and strengthening it is to feel on rustic diet, part of which is composed of fresh butter flavored by the crisp young grass cropped by the benevolent kine, new-laid eggs and spring chicken, and how indescribably luxurious the soft bed and sweet sleep after the day's legitimate and healthful exercise, where fire alarms, and the never-ending rattle of wheels do not prevent you from going swiftly to sleep, and where the hideous cry of the milkman does not drive slumber from your pillow before the day has taken down its shutters. With these ideas in my mind, I sealed myself in the cars the other day, preparatory to a long ride and unlimited sojourn in the country my baggage, consisting of a large blue cotton umbrella, a green balm carpet bag, a house coat—was placed carefully in the rack over my head, and adjusting my new spectacles, (a pair of Pike's best,) I was soon buried deeply in the perusal of a tract,—"Who's Your Friend?" handled me by a very tall, very thin and very stern-looking gentleman. Before I was aware of it, our iron horse was dashing through the ever-changing land scape, through tunnels, over bridges, along high embankments and through deep excavations, now bid, and now leaping out into the light, and careering like a huge winged thing through space, and I grew wonderfully exhilarated, as I sat by the open car window.

Presently the whistle announced our approach to the station. Removing my glasses, and with my finger and thumb clearing out the corners of my eyes, I prepared for a survey of the crowd which always collects at these places upon the arrival and departure of trains; but instead of being gratified by the sight of a group of smiling, cheerful faces, I was horrified to see

two stalwart fellows engaged in a regular combat, not with swords or pistols, not with clubs or knives, not with fists or feet, but with mail bags, thrown from the cars on to the platform. I presume, with which they were endeavoring to smash each other's empty heads. In a moment all my pleasant fancies vanished, and I felt as if nothing short of the penalty of death should be inflicted on the miscreants. Carefully holding up "Who's Your Friend," I stepped out for the purpose of "opening on them," but a sudden gust of wind kited my hat some distance in an opposite direction, and by the time I had recovered it, the train was under way, and it took all the wind and bottom I had to overtake it. I baffled in my attempt to administer a well-deserved rebuke to these varlets, which any good citizen would have done, I moodily resumed my seat, and thought over all I have said hitherto in regard to the neglect and ill-usage of mail pouches at railway stations, and I came to the conclusion that the fault was entirely with postmasters at those points.

Now is there no way of inducing these gentlemen to exercise the authority vested in them by their appointment—for I found upon inquiry that they are not only clothed with power, but are instructed to use it judiciously and effectually—to win or command respect for the mails within the limits of their deliveries? Should it not be a source of pleasure, as well as a matter of duty, to see that every bag is securely locked, properly tagged, and in sound condition before, and placed in safe hands when it leaves the office? Yet every observant traveler will tell you that the very reverse of this is often seen and talked about. I have seen pouches myself lying at depots without locks and fastened simply by putting a stick through the staple, giving apparently a silent invitation to the curious to look inside when an opportunity occurred; and I have seen them scattered about to such an extent that in my opinion it required a good deal of sagacity to gather them up for the right route and the right time. How shameful this is! As an order-loving, neighborly, perhaps a little officious but not official citizen, I would ask every postmaster and every clerk to whom these presents may come, what additional labor, trouble, or time would be involved in giving strict attention to the condition and locking of bags and pouches before being sent from their respective offices, and the treatment they receive after they leave it between and at the stations and depots. An example made of some of the miscreants who kick and tumble them about before they are put on to cars and stages would exercise a most beneficial and enduring effect. Just try it.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

AN UNEXPECTED REVELATION.—A postmaster down in Maine, who is also the publisher of a newspaper, prints some of his curious official experiences for the benefit of his readers, and among them the following:

Speaking of "secrets" reminds me of an incident which occurred in the office not many days since. A friend, a merchant in the place, was given permission to distribute to the boxes a circular which treated upon a lively subject called the "itch." One after another called quietly as usual for their mails, some treating the gratuitous distribution as a joke, and others receiving it as a piece of really valuable information, for which several took occasion to return and thank the Postmaster. Finally a good old lady, whose only fault appeared to be over-sensitiveness, appeared and received the contents of her box, perusing it over as she walked back towards the door, when her attention was suddenly called by a sharp voice cracking through the delivery—"How did you know we had the itch at our house?" Surprised at the suddenness of the attack, and desiring to compromise the trouble, we told her it was a common disease which every one was liable to. "Well," said she, her excitement rising higher, "I have always cautioned the children about scratching in public, and thought it was a secret."

[We suppose the words "gratuitous distribution" must be a mistake of the printers, as the postmaster, of course, knows that no circulars or other mail matter can legally be distributed gratuitously through post office boxes.]

Letter Addresses.

Please send to Mr. Hiram Kately, Of Simcoe's County, fair and slightly, Peaville Parish, supremely blest, Amid the hills of Canada West.

And oblige Aggie.

Dear Uncle Sam just take me along, (I've paid you three cents and I'll sing you a song.) To Mrs. L. Mitchell, who is waiting us ever, a short distance east of Post Office, Plum River; And from her husband, a cavalry boy, From Jo. Daviess County, the State, Illinois.

Dear, worthy Postmaster, you mustn't be late. But send this to old Pennsylvania State, Where they're crazy on oil, in Titusville town, And have it delivered right there to Clark Brown. Of course it is supposed that he's living in style. For every one does after once "striking oil."

Let every mail boy now attend And take this letter to my friend, He has a store in Michigan, In the nice village of Anika, There I forgot to tell his name! I thank it—Wm. W. Payne.

Margaret County State of Wisconsin purchases city-brigglive town of daves or else where or to Douglass for John Dunn or Patrick O'Brien, Intended for "Brigglive P. O., Wauwago, Purchase, Marquette Co., Wisconsin."

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK, Editor.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1865.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All papers stopped at the expiration of the term of subscription, unless a new subscription is remitted. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions or in reference to the business department of this paper should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the *U. S. Mail* and *POST OFFICE ASSISTANT* a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General. To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Washington Oct. 13, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, of the usefulness of the "UNITED STATES MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT" as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal operations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department. W. DENNISON, Postmaster General. To J. HOLBROOK, Esq., Editor U. S. Mail.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the *Mail* bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whom this number reaches, marked 56, will please remit at once if they desire to receive the paper hereafter.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official information on postal matters.

The Money Order office at City Point, Va., has been discontinued. Postmasters at other Money Order offices will draw no more orders payable at that office.

FOUND in the New York Post Office, a gold medal bearing the name of a soldier belonging to a New York volunteer regiment. It is supposed to have dropped from a letter sent from Sherman's army to New York for distribution. Any of our readers to whom complaint may be made of the loss of such an article, will please forward a full description of it to the editor of this paper.

REGISTERED LETTERS.—It will be seen by the official instructions on the first page of this number, that registered letters are hereafter to be forwarded enclosed in sealed envelopes or wrappers directed to the postmaster at the office to which the letters are to be sent. When sent to a Distributing Office, the wrapper or envelope must be addressed to the postmaster at that office; if sent direct, address the wrapper or envelope to the postmaster at the office of final destination. Follow the same rule in making out the accompanying registered bills and also the return bills.

Instructions Under the New Law.

Of course no postmaster or post office clerk among our subscribers will fail to carefully read the instructions under the Act of March 3, 1865, which are published in full on our first page, together with certain additional instructions modifying some former regulations. It will be understood that these Instructions, as now published, are to be observed *in toto*, without waiting for the pamphlet copies which will soon be distributed by the Department to all post offices.

J. W. ADAMS, Esq., late postmaster at Brockport, N. Y., to whom we and our readers are indebted for several lively and able contributions touching on postal matters, has retired from the charge of that office. We regret to lose Mr. A. from among the number of our "parabioners," and heartily wish him success in any new sphere to which he may be called.

The Great Crime.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, who but two short months ago stood at the portals of the nation's Capitol to take, for the second time, the oath of the high office to which he had been chosen, and to speak to the American people the calm, solemn, yet trustful words of his inaugural address—Abraham Lincoln, who through four years of dreary trial had stood at the head of that people, and so borne himself through all that time of alternate despondency and hope, of victory and disaster, as to win from them the "well done good and faithful servant," which his triumphant re-election so plainly uttered—has passed from among us. Just as that portion of his great task which seemed least suited to his kindly nature—the conduct of a great civil war—was drawing to its close, and he was preparing, "with malice toward none, and charity for all," for that not less arduous but more congenial portion of his duty, which was to restore the blessings of peace and fraternal unity to the land—in an hour of relaxation, seated with wife and friends—the treacherous hand of a cowardly murderer struck down our beloved and honored chief. A third-rate strolling vagabond, a loose living profligate, cunning, egotistical and vain, consumed with a morbid craving for notoriety (for we believe that to have been the real, underlying motive of the wretch) joins with certain other worthless villains in a plot of murder which he characteristically executes with melodramatic parade—and the deed of one half brute, half fool, has hung the land with mourning. The death of ten thousand such paltry fellows as he who so soon was tracked and shot like a noxious beast in his hiding-place, would be but a poor atonement for such a loss as we have suffered. And the greatness of his victim should not be allowed to elevate the murderer above the common herd of ruffians. "Sic semper tyrannis" were but empty words from his lips, familiar to stage clap-trap. He did not kill Abraham Lincoln because he believed him a tyrant, nor to "avenge the South," but from a vulgar desire to become a world's wonder through some stroke of startling infamy—the same ignoble motive which has impelled hundreds of other murderers before him. He was undoubtedly the tool of conspirators higher in station than himself, but so far as he was concerned we give him credit for no more respectable impulse to the act than prompts the veriest quack or mountebank in selecting some hitherto unheard-of mode of advertising himself. Looking at the self-conscious, smirking face of the top as his photograph presents it, one can easily fancy him rehearsing before his mirror, with studied posture and grimace, his detestable part in the great tragedy. But enough of him; he died as the fool dieth, and let him and his name rot together.

The ranks of the noble army of martyrs in the cause of freedom and of man count none nobler than he who has just joined them. No purer patriot, no more honest man, could have been placed by the Providence of God in that exalted position from which he has been so barbarously cut off. None less deserved a tyrant's fate, none better deserved the martyr's reward. His name will shine on the page of history with a lustre unimpaired by a single act of abuse of the vast power he wielded, undimmed by the remembrance of aught that would willingly be forgotten by the friends of liberty, humanity and progress throughout the world and for all time.

Peace.

The great Rebellion is crushed. Inaugurated by the treacherous theft of forts, yards and arsenals, it finds a fitting end in the flight of its infamous originators, laden with the spoil of plundered bank vaults. Not the most sanguine of the friends of its accursed cause can now hope for its success. With every sea-port and nearly every important inland town in our possession—with the bulk of its munitions of war as well as its armies, captured, we may safely assume that its power for evil has gone, never to return. Peace is near at hand. Our four long years of blood and strife have ended in the triumphant vindication of the worthiness of the American people to inherit, and their power to uphold, the priceless gift bequeathed them by the fathers of the Republic. The blood and treasure that have been so freely expended have not been wasted—the united efforts of open and secret traitors at home and the machinations of "neutral" foreign powers abroad, have failed to prove our great experiment of popular government a failure, and the smiling dawn of peace, discharging the dark and tempestuous night of civil war, is about to shine over a land reunited and purified. Thanks be to God, to our brave soldiers and their generals; beloved be the memory of those who have fallen for the right, and of him, our well-beloved President, whose funeral knell so cruelly jarred the harmonious chime of victory; all honor and reward to those who, having borne the flag through the battle's storm, still live to see it float once more over our individual country.

Give Particulars.

Postmasters, in reporting either to the Department or to a Special Agent the loss of letters, should be careful to give all essential particulars of the case—date and office of mailing, names of writers and of persons to whom the letters were addressed, amount of money (if any) enclosed. It is useless to report such matters (as some do) in this style:

"Dear Sir: I mailed a letter for a lady in this town a short time ago, plainly directed to a person in New York, and containing \$5, which has not been received. I placed it in the mail myself, and am sure it left this office. What shall I do about it?"

Yours truly, J. DENNISON, P. M.

Such a "report" as this involves the necessity of writing to the sagacious postmaster to inquire the names of the "lady" and the "person," with the other particulars by which waste of time and balance of recovering the letter may be lost.

WHAT THE NEIGHBORS SAY.—Quite a number of our correspondents seem to be somewhat in doubt as to whether they should regulate their official conduct by the suggestions and opinions of their neighbors, or by the Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department. More than one postmaster writes us every month to say that "his neighbors," or "the people around here," find fault with him for not sending boots, tobacco, &c., in the mails at newspaper rates, or in some other way violating what he knows to be the law, to suit their convenience, or ideas of right, and he helplessly asks: "What shall I do?" Sometimes he quotes the practice of some other postmaster in the neighborhood who is a willful or an ignorant violator of the law, and asks whether he would be justified in following the bad example. We must admit that we are amazed that a postmaster should think it worth while to ask such questions; but to those who do, we would say: Comply strictly with the Postal Laws and Regulations in all official matters. If your neighbors complain, tell them courteously that your official oath requires you to obey those laws, which you cannot evade or disregard to oblige them, though every other postmaster in the State should do so. This should satisfy all but those invertebrate "sore-heads" known to every postmaster, and in our opinion life is too short to waste any portion of it in attempting to satisfy them.

COMMUNICATIONS.

POST OFFICE, Z.—O.
DEAR SIR: Did you ever wonder when you read in the local columns of a newspaper, "this advance and so Express company for papers in advance of the mails," why they always forget to thank the Mail when it brings the papers in advance of the Express? P. O. CLERK.

We suppose it is for the same reason that few people remember to be thankful for their breath until they have had a touch of the asthma.

[For the U. S. Mail.]

P. O. S.—Ky., April, 1865.
MONSIEUR TOSSON tells the "small fry" some very good things; he says:

"I take the ground that if a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well; and assuming that official duties are worth doing, my opinion is that they should be well done—done earnestly, energetically, cheerfully, satisfactorily, and promptly." Now, this is first-rate Post Office gospel, but just let "Monsieur" leave his old track, "between Boston and Buffalo," and come over this way and squat down in our little office for only one quarter. Let him receive and deliver, in the aggregate, about four or five letters, when unpaid and uncharged, and the next quarter make out his account with Government—and he has sold 1000 postage stamps, amounting to the postage on papers due to the Department amounts to two thirds of his salary for the quarter (the half of which he has not received from his clever neighbors), then balance his account—credit himself with \$9 25 for his three months' labor, and pay over \$40 to the Department. Then if he will use the same "satisfactorily" and "cheerfully," I will set him down as a Christian.

The above is a correct description of our condition at the ending of the last quarter, and you say it can't be rectified. Why not then demand that the business be done gratis? Our salary was apportioned for the time we were in Dixie. Suppose during that time we had received no mails—then what?

Yours, H. L. E. A. P. M.

Our correspondent's case certainly seems to be a hard one, and we will refer it to our friend Tosson, who may perhaps be able to administer some consolation. In the meantime, we would suggest that one of the grievances complained of is chargeable to no one but our correspondent himself. The law distinctly provides that "no mail matter shall be delivered by the postmaster until the postage due thereon shall have been paid;" so that if our friend's "clever neighbors" are allowed to receive their papers gratis and leave the postmaster to settle for the postage, it is clearly not the fault of the Department. There is no doubt that the assignment of salaries under the new law presses rather hardly in some individual cases, such as the above; but it would have been impossible, perhaps, to have framed a law which, while giving all the advantages secured by the act referred to, would have been free from that objection. General beneficial results to the public and to the Department must necessarily be kept more directly in view in postal legislation, even though entailing apparent hardships in individual cases; and we believe that the saving of time, trouble and expense by the substitution of the salary for the commission system has recommended it to the hearty approval of nine-tenths of the postmasters of the country, and even to the majority of those who, like our correspondent, are unfortunately pecuniary sufferers (temporarily) through its operation.

DELIVERING LETTERS TO CHILDREN.—We give below two letters which we have received on this subject during the past month:

C.—N. Y., April, 1865.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL: Will you allow me to say a few words, suggested by "Monsieur Tosson," as well as by several others?

Why should Monsieur object to sending letters and delivering mail matter to children? In this place, and I doubt not that at most country post offices, many people are in the habit of sending their children for their letters and papers, and seldom go to the post offices themselves. If they are willing to trust their children and depend mostly on them to convey letters and papers to and from the post office, ought the postmaster to refuse to send and say they must not return to receive a letter sent by a child to the spirit of their instructions? True, the Regulations do not require postmasters to send many words to send mail matter by children, but they do require postmasters to be obliging and to perform the duties of their office in an accommodating spirit. If they refuse to send by a child what comes in the mail, why should they not return to receive a letter sent by a child to be mailed? Of course I would be duly cautious; I would not seek opportunities in the absence of orders to send mail matter by children. Nevertheless I do think it right to conform in some degree to the wants and wishes of the community, and if a letter be lost under such circumstances the fault would be with them, and not the postmaster. Children may be more liable to lose letters than grown people, but I doubt it.

Children will be children, and will play "tag," and "hide and seek," but men and women are only "children of larger growth."

A. W. W.

J.—Pa., April, 1865.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL: As a sample of the reasonableness of some of the complaints which are made against postmasters, let me tell you what happened in our little town this week. Frank T.—the eight year old son of lawyer T.—has been for the past year in the habit of calling at the post office for his father's letters. Two days ago I gave him three, one of which he happened to lose, delivering the other two. An or two afterwards his father called on me and abused me "like a pick-pocket" for not knowing better than to deliver letters to a child of that age, and threatens to report me to the Department. Don't you think it took him a good while to find out my imprudence, when he had been getting his mail by the same juvenile carrier for a year back? and aren't you glad you don't keep a "post office store" and are not required by regulation to be civil to such customers? L. G. S. P. M.

A postmaster in delivering letters to children can only be guided by the same rule which applies to their delivery to grown persons, viz.: he must be satisfied that they are authorized to receive them. If the parents are willing to take the risk, it is no affair of his; but at the same time he should exercise prudence and discretion, especially where very young children are concerned. While it is true that a postmaster is not in any way responsible for the loss of letters that have passed from his custody to that of any unauthorized agent of the persons to whom they are addressed, yet it should be remembered that he is required to manifest a spirit of accommodation in his dealings with the public, and that it may be a greater accommodation, under some circumstances, to withhold a letter than to deliver it to a person obviously unfit to be entrusted with it.

Government Request Envelopes.

Doubtless a considerable portion of the community is not aware of the law providing for the return of unclaimed letters, on the face of which such a request is endorsed; and many persons do not avail themselves of this provision, either through monetary forgetfulness of the fact, or because not familiar with the exact terms in which such a request should be made. Now, however, the form of such a request is to be printed on all stamped envelopes, so that the sender of a letter has but to fill in the blanks with name and post office address, to ensure its return if unclaimed.

With a view to bring the stamped envelopes into more general use among the business public, it has also been arranged that the names and post office addresses of parties may be printed in full on the envelopes, provided not less than 1,000 envelopes be ordered, at the same rates charged with the blanks filled.

We are gratified that this arrangement has been made, and we can but think that the very low rates at which these envelopes are offered by the Department, will commend their use to all whose correspondence is extensive.

Answers to Correspondents.

RATING-STAMPS AND BALANCES.—S. J. M.—Pa.—The "gross receipts" of a post office include the amount received from the sale of stamps, and that amount is of course to be reckoned in deciding whether an office is entitled to marking and rating-stamps and letter-balances.

SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—P. M. S.—Ohio.—Soldiers' letters, when unpaid and properly endorsed, are chargeable with only single rate of postage when delivered. If they reach your office charged with double rates, charge single rates only on delivery, and notify the postmaster at the office from which you receive them, of his error. Enter in your account of mails received the full amount charged on the post bill, but enter in your quarterly account the sum erroneously charged, as an overcharge.

OVERCHARGES AND UNDERCHARGES.—J. W. S.—B.—Iowa.—The amounts uncharged and overcharged on letters received from other offices are to be entered on the blank sheet furnished for that purpose; and at the end of the quarter the gross amount of the overcharges is to be credited in Article 10, quarterly account, and the amount of the undercharges is to be entered in Article 3.

LETTERS OUTSIDE THE MAILS.—J. S. F.—Ohio.—It makes no difference in the offence of carrying letters unlawfully out of the mails, whether they be sealed or unsealed, nor whether they are enclosed in envelopes or not. (Noting, however, the exception in the law in regard to stamped government envelopes.) 2. A package of money is not a letter, and can be lawfully carried outside the mails. 3. The carrier should not be allowed to take the mail to his house on the evening previous to the day fixed for its departure.

BOOTS, TOBACCO, &c., BY MAIL.—H. B. W.—B.—Ohio.—Neither boots nor tobacco can, under any circumstances, be forwarded in the mails, at any other than letter rates of postage. No articles of clothing can be mailed to civilians at any other than letter rates. For full particulars as to rates and rates in regard to clothing mailed to soldiers, see column of "Miscellaneous Information."

BOXES OWNED BY P. M.'S.—Z. W. C.—Ind.—The Department will not allow the use of any boxes, though you built them yourself, and pay over their rent to the Department; because, among other reasons, you still receive, in the form of salary, the same amount you formerly received as box-rents. Postmasters' salaries were adjusted upon the basis of their emoluments—including box-rents—for the two years preceding July 1, 1865.

LETTERS WRONGLY ADDRESSED.—D. P. M.—N.—Iowa.—A letter which reaches your office, addressed to a post office which has never existed, should be returned to the office whose postmark it bears, marked "Returned for Better Direction." If addressed to a discontinued office, send it to the office nearest to the one to which it is addressed.

CIRCULARS.—J. H. T. N., H.—N.—A written circular is chargeable with letter rates of postage. Auction notices and notices of merchants to their customers, when written, can only pass through the mails at letter rates. All letters, whether sealed or not, are chargeable with letter postage, (except free letters, and unpaid letters to foreign countries, the prepayment on which is optional,) and are all equally under the protection of the post office laws while in the mail, or in custody of a postmaster or other employee of the Department. 2. In counting the "letters received for delivery during the

last six days in the quarter," they should all be counted, without reference to the postage paid on them.

POSTAGE ON LETTER PAPER.—J. G. P. R.—Mass.—The new law has changed the rate of postage on letter paper. It is now two cents per four ounces. It is included under the head of "paper, plain or ornamental," referred to in Sec. 20, Act of March 3, 1865.

POSTMASTERS' FRANKING PRIVILEGE.—A. E. M., P.—Y.—Postmasters cannot frank their communications to the U. S. Mail, nor to any other newspaper. Their franking privilege is confined to official letters to each other. They can also, like other citizens, write to Members of Congress, and send official letters to Heads of Departments, Chief Clerks, &c. (see column of "Domestic Postages") free.

GIVING RECEIPTS FOR LETTERS.—P. M. Camp N.—There is no law to compel a postmaster to give a receipt for an unregistered letter deposited in his office; but sometimes it is necessary in order to prove the mailing of legal documents, &c., that such a receipt should be obtained, and a postmaster should not refuse to give it under such circumstances.

BACK NUMBERS.—J. W. B., I.—Ind.—We are unable to furnish the numbers of the Mail you refer to, our files being exhausted. Neither have we any means of furnishing the list of new post offices.

PART PAID AND UNPAID LETTERS.—G. W. C., S.—Ill.—Part paid domestic letters are, according to Act of March, 1865, to be forwarded, charged only with the amount unpaid; those wholly unpaid are to be sent to the Dead Letter Office.

DEAD LETTERS.—A. R. B., T.—I. Letters sent to the Dead Letter Office on account of being wholly unpaid should be endorsed "Held for postage." 2. All letters sent to the Dead Letter Office should be accompanied by a post-bill (see paragraph 14, instructions appended to section 7, Act of 1863), but the unpaid postage charged therein is not to be entered on the account of mails sent. 3. All letters sent to the Dead Letter office must have marked upon them the reason for so sending them.

EXTRA PAY TO MAIL CONTRACTORS.—P. M. C.—Ill.—No claim for additional pay on account of increased weight of the mails can be considered by the Department. Bidders must inform themselves on this point before sending in their bids.

SUBSCRIBERS CHANGING RESIDENCE.—W. A. H., L.—Ill.—When a subscriber to a newspaper or periodical has paid the postage quarterly or yearly in advance, and changes his residence before his subscription has expired, he should write to the publisher and request him to send the paper direct from the office of publication to his new residence. It will then be the duty of the office of delivery to deliver the same without further charge for the remainder of the quarter of the year, as the case may be, on the subscriber showing the receipt of the postmaster at his former residence.

POSTAGE ON FOREIGN PAPERS.—T. W. N., B.—N. Y.—Newspapers from Great Britain and Ireland are charged with two cents postage each. This is the United States postage, and must be prepaid. When they arrive at destination the British post office makes another charge. This is the British postage; newspapers from Great Britain and Ireland are charged one penny there, which is the British postage; arriving here they are to be charged two cents each, which is the United States postage. The postage belonging to each country is collected in that country, and neither country can collect the other's postage.

LETTERS REFERRING TO FREIGHT.—C. P. M., M.—V.—Cal.—It is lawful for a driver of a mail stage or conductor on a mail train to carry unstamped letters referring to freight carried at the same time on such stage or train.

RENT, FUEL, LIGHTS, &c.—P. M. E.—Kansas.—Section 3, of the new Post Office Law, authorizes the Postmaster General, at his discretion, to allow a just and reasonable sum for the above and certain other items at offices of the 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th classes. It will be observed that it does not authorize postmasters to expend just what they please for those items.

AGE OF MAIL CARRIERS.—A. M. L., B.—N. Y.—No person can legally be employed to carry the mail who is under the age of sixteen years.

Miscellaneous Information.

Army Correspondence.

Letters from all soldiers in the army, below the rank of a commissioned officer, may be sent through the mails without prepayment—endorsed "Soldier's letter" by a field or staff officer, (or, at detached posts, by the surgeon or chaplain) of the regiment from which they are sent. The same regulation applies to the navy and marine corps. Letters to be endorsed "Sailor's letter," by an officer, in no case are the letters of commissioned officers entitled to this privilege. The postage due on such "soldier's letters" is to be collected at the office of delivery.

PREPAID LETTERS FOR SOLDIERS.—Articles of clothing, being manufactured of wool, cotton or linen, and comprised in a package not exceeding two pounds in weight, addressed to any non-commissioned officer or private, serving in the armies of the United States, may be transmitted in the mails of the United States, at the rate of eight cents, to be in all cases prepaid, for every four ounces, or any fraction thereof, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

MAILING SOLDIERS' LETTERS.—In order to insure the prompt and certain delivery of letters and other mail matter, addressed to officers and soldiers serving in the army of the Potomac, or stationed near Washington, D. C., the Postmaster General directs that postmasters, in making up their mails, whether for Washington direct, or for distributing offices, shall place all army letters in packages by themselves, and plainly mark them "Army Letters," so that when such packages arrive in Washington, they may be taken at once to an apartment provided for their receipt, without being opened with the mails for the city.

Dead Letters.

By the instructions under the postal laws, UNPAID LETTERS are specified to be—Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes. Unpaid letters for foreign countries, on which prepayment is required by the regulations. Letters not addressed, or so wrongly addressed that their destination cannot be known. Letters misdirected to places where there are no post offices.

Civilian's letters, (domestic) wholly unpaid. Only such letters as are herein designated are, when deposited in any post office, to be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office; all others must be dispatched to their destination, (or, if drop letters, delivered.)

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AND

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WHOLE No. 57.

Stopping a Post Office.

By J. HOLBROOK, ESQ.

One of the coolest and at the same time silliest pieces of post office rascality that I have ever known, occurred a few years since in Rhode Island.

A small draft from the Post Office Department having been presented by a mail contractor to the postmaster of P., payment was refused, on the ground that the office had been abolished some time before, and that there was little or nothing due the Department. No time was lost by the contractor in apprising the proper officer at Washington, of the non-payment of the draft, and the reason assigned therefor; when reference was at once made to the official records. They, however, failed to show the discontinuance of the office.

Here was a mysterious and singular affair, and a letter was accordingly despatched to the seemingly delinquent postmaster, requiring an explanation of his course. A reply to this was very promptly sent to the Department, to the effect that some months previous he had received from the Appointment Office formal notice that his office had been discontinued, accompanied by an order to hand over all the mail matter remaining on hand, together with the mail key, and other property of the Department, to a neighboring postmaster, and that he had of course answered the demand.

A re-examination of the books still showing the office to be a "live one," he was written to, and directed to forward the original document upon the authority of which he had shut up his office. The papers were duly forwarded, and sure enough, there was the "Order," signed with the name of the Second Assistant Postmaster General, who was then at the head of the Appointment Office. It read as follows:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

March 15, 1865.

Sir,—The Postmaster General having decided to discontinue the post office at P., from and after the expiration of the present fiscal quarter, you will, at that time, please hand over all mail matter, the mail key, and all other property belonging to the Department, to the postmaster at M., on his presenting this order. Very respectfully,
Your ob'd servt.,
2d Asst. P. M. General.

Although a tolerably fair imitation of that officer's handwriting, it was at once pronounced a forgery. My services, as Special Agent, were called into requisition, and all the facts, as they then stood, communicated to me. As speedily as possible I visited the scene of this perplexing and extraordinary official mystery. Arriving at the site of the late post office, I found its former incumbent to be a highly respectable merchant, well advanced in years, and blessed with one of those countenances which, to a person at all accustomed to study character in that way, at once dispels all doubt and distrust. He was of Dutch descent, and, while intelligent on general subjects, was particularly so in the use of the devices of cunning knaves. From him I received a full statement of the shutting up process, and obtained some additional facts, which afterwards furnished me with a clue to the whole mystery.

On one of the last days of March, Mr. G., postmaster at another village in the same town, called on him in company with one of his friends, and presented what purported to be a copy of an order from the Department, directing him to close the office, and to give up the property in the manner already described. Of course the postmaster felt and manifested no little surprise, for the office had been established but about a year, and he had heard of no application or desire in any quarter for such a proceeding.

"It is all right, I suppose," said he, after carefully examining the "copy" which had been handed him without a word of explanation; "but I think, before I hand over the property, I ought to have the original order."

"Oh yes, it's all correct," responded the witness (who had seen the copy made from the spurious order, supposing that to be genuine); "I say it compared with the original myself, and it's a true copy."

"But the quarter will not be ended till tomorrow," remarked the astonished official; "and, on the whole, I think I must refuse compliance, unless the original instructions are placed in my hands."

"Then I understand you as refusing to obey the order of the Department, do I?" said the applicant.

"Not at all," was the mild response; "I am perfectly ready to comply when I see the written command over the signature of the proper officer of the Department. It can be but little trouble to produce that, and I think, under the same circumstances, you would demand as much yourself."

"But do I not bring a reliable witness to prove that this is an exact copy of the original?" asked the visitor, impatiently.

"True, but my request is reasonable, and I think I will adhere to it," he replied; and the gentleman, with his companion, left the premises, simply remarking, "You will hear from me again, to-morrow." And sure enough, he did.

Towards sundown on the following day, the abolisher of post offices made his appearance, and, with an air of authority, without uttering a word, threw the extinguishing document upon the counter. The postmaster took it up, and after adjusting his spectacles, examined first the outside. It had the usual printed endorsement on the right hand upper corner, "Post Office Department, Official Business," was properly franked by the Second Assistant, post-marked "Washington," and plainly addressed to the "Postmaster, M., R. I."

On withdrawing the letter from its covering, it had, sure enough, every appearance of genuineness, and no doubt remained that it was the official action of the Department. The post office effects were accordingly put in shape as hastily as possible, and handed over. But

"The course of knavery never did run smooth."

Strong suspicions began to arise that the neighboring postmaster, before mentioned, was the author of the whole transaction, and when the knowledge of a motive on his part was supplied, his guilt became to my mind clear and positive.

It appeared that at the time of the establishment of the now defunct post office, there was a tremendous opposition, in which he took an

active and leading part, but the member of Congress for that District favored the application for the new office, and it was finally granted. Being but two miles from the old establishment, there was, as had been anticipated, a considerable falling off in the receipts of the latter. The snake was "scotched, not killed," or, in other words, postmaster number one, and bottled up his wrath, and was hiding his time. The affair had now become with him a matter of pride as well as interest, and when joked, as he frequently was, about his defeat in the post office contest, he was often heard to say that the new post office was "short-lived any way."

He was quite an active, prominent politician, and when a new nomination for Congress was to be made, he thought he saw his way clear. He struggled hard for the selection of a personal friend, and succeeded, not only in the nomination, but in the election. But when the pinch came, the Honorable member failed him, and could not be persuaded to take the responsibility, for the new post office had proved really a great convenience to many of his constituents and to some of his friends, personal and political.

With the advantage of this information obtained from the ex-postmaster and one or two other citizens of that vicinity, I proceeded to visit the office which at one-gulp had swallowed up the other, without apparent injury to its digestive organs. The postmaster was absent, and the office in charge of his wife. This was a piece of good luck for it would enable me to examine the books and papers to greater advantage, and what was better, to interrogate the lady and her lesser half separately. Two or three points were very important.

Might not some wicked wag in the Department, knowing all the circumstances of the case, have prepared the letter in question, and sent it as a hoax? This could be easily settled by referring to the account of mails received, for the record in that event should show the receipt of a free letter, either direct from Washington, or from the Distribution Office at New York. Then another test, was a comparison of the "order," with the handwriting of the postmaster. But the most troublesome point of all to be obtained, was how the official envelope had been obtained, for that was beyond a doubt a genuine one.

Introducing myself to the lady assistant, who happened to be alone in the office, I remarked,—"I am in pursuit of a letter which should have come here from New York in March last, and I wish to see if your New York packages, during that month, were all regularly received. Where do you keep your transcripts, the books, or sheets, you know, upon which you copy your post-bills?"

"They were taken from a desk and laid before me. Turning to the record of the month in question, not a single free letter was entered as received at that office for the last two weeks in March, from any quarter!"

"Who made the entries in this book?" I inquired. "My husband," was the prompt answer.

Having the general style of the "order" in my mind, I glanced over a few pages of the book, and observed several peculiarities in the formation of some of the capital letters which I had noticed in the (to this time) fatherless document. It was written in bluish ink, and so were the pages of the records made at about the same time—a trifling circumstance to be sure, but yet a link in the chain of evidence. The water too, used in sealing, was strikingly similar in size and shade to those contained in a large box upon the desk. The "order" was on a half sheet of letter paper of different size and stamp than the wrapper enclosing it.

It now remained to establish some reasonable theory to account for his possession of a genuine official envelope. Some further reflection supplied that theory which in the sequel proved to be the correct one. The date of the Washington post-mark I had before noticed, was very indistinct, in fact could not be made out, although the word "Washington" and "March" were tolerably plain. At that time the present style of envelopes were not much in use by the Department.

Could it not be an old wrapper, or the "fly leaf" of some former official document from headquarters? This idea was certainly favored by the fact that on one side it presented a ragged appearance as if torn from another half sheet; and if its fellow could be found on the premises, the two parts must necessarily fit together, and conclusively show that a branch of the Appointment Office had really been temporarily established without authority of law, not far from that locality.

It was now late in the afternoon, and the postmaster still absent, though momentarily expected home. An invitation to take tea with the good lady, was the more readily accepted, from a desire to prevent any comparing of notes between them with respect to the inquiries and examination already made. At the table I ventured, for the first time, to broach the subject of the "stoppage" affair.

"I believe the last time I passed over this route, you had two post offices in town," I remarked.

"Yes," was the reply, "but it made so much bother, and did so little good, that it was abolished some months since."

In her manner of receiving this remark, I could discover no proof of a participation in, or knowledge of the process by which the rival concern had been gotten rid of. And I might as well say in this connection as anywhere else, that I have never in my own official experience, known any instance of a wife or child being made an accomplice, partner or confidant, before the fact. In the commission of serious post office offences. Prying ladies have sometimes, however, from curiosity, rather than pecuniary considerations, exhibited a remarkable aptness in getting at the written contents of letters without the consent or knowledge of the owners.

The cloth had not long been removed before the postmaster's approach was heralded by the scratching at the door of a large Newfoundland dog, the circumstance being at once noted by the lady as indicative of the safe return of her husband. In a moment more the sound of the horse's hoofs were distinctly heard, and as soon as the nag had been passed over to a boy who had left in the office, the post office annihilator entered.

"My dear," says the affectionate wife, "you

have got back once more." And with this salutation she announced her guest, as "a gentleman who had come to see about some post office business."

He eyed me rather closely, and with a much less amiable expression than he assumed on leaving that I was a near relative of his "Uncle Sam," which I saw it was essential to make known to him, in order to secure decent treatment; for he was decidedly savage in his looks and manners on the first introduction, taking me no doubt for some troublesome customer (as I eventually proved to be, by the way), who had come to bother him about some trifling affair.

An intimation that I would like to see him at the post office was sufficient. We soon found ourselves there alone, and I commenced interrogating him thus:—

"Did you receive notice from the Department in March last of the discontinuance of the office at P?"

"I did, and was ordered to take possession of the property of the Department," he replied. "The old gentleman said he, 'rather hated to yield; but, when I showed him the documents, he caved in and made the best of it. The fact is, the office never ought to have been created at all.'"

"When did the order reach your hands?" I asked. "and do you remember the circumstance of its arrival in the mail?"

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dence closed and riveted; a chain which held the guilty one in its unyielding grasp, and set at naught all attempts at evasion or escape, had been disposed to make them. His only alternative was silence or confession, and of these he chose the latter.

A full report of all the facts above stated was made to the Department, and the tricky postmaster soon received an official letter from Washington, concerning whose genuineness the most skeptical could have no doubt. In this case, "the engineer was hoist with his own petard." In stopping his neighbor's office he was himself stopped; and, furthermore, received a reward for his misdeeds, the nature of which any future post office stopper will learn by sad experience.

The defunct office was resuscitated, and its former incumbent reinstated in all the rights and privileges of which he had been deprived by the treachery of his unscrupulous opponent.

Nothing but the most obstinate determination to carry his point at all hazards, could have impelled this man to the extreme measures which he adopted for ridding himself of his rival. Forgery is a crime of sufficient magnitude, one would think, to deter from its commission any one that is not prepared to go all lengths in the execution of his designs. And the present case shows how far pride and self-will may carry a man who is not prepared to go all lengths in the execution of his designs.

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would enable you to find their localities on the map.

Again—is it right, is it proper, is it allowable under the statute for a postmaster to give his whole family the run of the post office? I view it as all wrong, and I hear frequent complaints from others who regard it as a gross abuse of privilege. As I understand it, certain clerical force is necessary, and is employed and properly qualified for every post office, by whom alone the routine duties should be performed. No one else, I believe, has any right to touch or handle anything in the office; if they do, they are guilty of an infraction of a positive law, and the official who connives at such infraction is regardless or ignorant of the responsibilities imposed upon him by his oath of office; yet there are offices where all hands, from papa and mamma, down through a "full crew" of a dozen children, do duty to the detriment of the service and the annoyance of the community. If an erring subscriber reads this, let him reform the abuse, without bearing malice against one of the most benevolent old gentlemen in Christendom, who is desirous of seeing every post office a paragon of discipline and perfection, every postmaster the *no plus ultra* of public functionaries, and every clerk accommodating, industrious, moral, and respected.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

A MODEL "REPORT."—Speaking of postmasters reminds us of one that figured over in Fulton county, in the reign of Old Buck. He was a new appointee, and with a little assistance in his mind respecting the duties of his position, which, we remark parenthetically, involved about \$30 business yearly. Mr. Jenkins—for such was his name—had read the instructions sent him, that he must make a "quarterly report" to headquarters. So when the time came to report to headquarters he "spread himself" on the following:

—Fulton co. Ill.

July the 9 1857

Mr. James Buckman president of United States Deer Sir: Been required by the instructions of this post office to report quarterly I know here-with foolish that please you by report as follows: The Harvestin has been got on peertly and most of the mahors have got their cuttin about dun whet is hardly a nser nabor had rollin lands corn is yallerish and won't turn out more than ten or fifteen bushels to the akre the health of the comonety is only tolerabl meezils havin brokin out about 2 and a half miles from here that is a powerful awakenin on the suble of religin in the Potts naborhood and many soul of the mahors have know their sins and forgivin miss nancy Smith a nser nabor had twins day before yesterday. One of them is supposed to be a seven monther is a poor scraggy thing and wont live half it day this is about all I have to report the presnt q give my repts to Mrs Buckman and subscribe myself yours Truly,
Aljah Jenkins

p. m. at — Fulton co. Ill.

—Exchange Paper.

Letter Addresses.

A few months ago a letter was sent from the post office at Fall River, Massachusetts, with the following direction: "Mr. James Fell, on board the U. S. gunboat on the James River."

This was so remarkably indefinite that the letter made a long journey. The officers of the first gunboat it visited started it on its travels with the following endorsement: "Push it down till it reaches the water."

Successive endorsements were made as follows:—the turns of the fleet getting much amusement out of it:

"Not on Onondaga."
"Not on tug No. 3."
"Not on Mackinaw. Pass it down still further; Jabesh resideth not here."
"Not on Mendota. Pass it on till said Jabesh appeareth."

Agawam.—"Jabesh wothere. Further, deponent saith not."
Hunchback.—"On ye go! Jabesh in the distance."

Connodore Morris: "He is not here, You must persevere."

Miami, November 8: "Jabesh hath been closely sought, Yet the search hath come to naught."
Dan.—"Jabesh but not turned up here."
"Jabesh is not on board Tug No. 1."

Connodore Barney: "Oh! Jabesh Fell!
We cannot tell
Your place of residence:
But since we know it is not here,
We bid you go a wanderer,
And sadly send you hence."

Chamberlain: "We have hunted high and low,
Above, on deck, below;
Have listened to every sound,
But the dear Jabesh is not found."

Park: "Through all this fleet of steam and sail,
Has passed this letter till it's stale;
And Jabesh, God bless the name,
Is in this fleet unknown to fame;
So pass it on to Savage; send it hence,
We charge no Towle for this nonsense."

Pulman: "Jabesh Fell, I think, has gone to —
He's not aboard the 'Pat.'"

Foster: "After examining the roster
On board the Foster
All for to find this Jabesh Fell,
I'm of the opinion
He has left this dominion,
And where to find him I cannot tell;
Some up-riser that may be wiser,
Like David Keyser,
Perhaps may tell,
But never mind him;
And deliver this to Jabesh Fell."

Burnside: "Poor Jabesh! we've sought him above and below,
To Harris, the captain, we send him in woe."

Jessop: "Oh, Jabesh! oh, Jabesh! where, where can you be,
To occasion endearments so strange and so strong;
You're not aboard here, a blind man may see,
So there's nothing to do but to pass it along.
I last accounts the letter was still travel-
ling."

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK, J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1864.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All Papers stopped at the expiration of the term of subscription, unless a new subscription is received. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions will be returned to the Postmaster of the place to which they are addressed, unless the name of the subscriber is written on the envelope.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Oct. 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

ORDER.—That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several Post Offices as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Oct. 12, 1864.

DEAR SIR,—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the "United States Mail and Post Office Assistant," as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal operations, and as a carefully recommended to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department. W. DENNISON, Postmaster General.

To J. Gayler Esq., Editor U. S. Mail.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whom this number reaches, marked 57, will please remit at once if they desire to receive the paper hereafter.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them at as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official information on postal matters.

OFFICIAL.

Postage to Norway and Sweden.

The rates of postage to Sweden and Norway, respectively, by the U. S. Mail and *Provisional closed mail*, have been changed as follows, viz: To Sweden—36 cents per single rate if prepaid, and 40 cents per single rate if unpaid. To Norway—42 cents per single rate if prepaid, and 46 cents per single rate if unpaid.

We are always glad to receive contributions from our subscribers in the way of sketches of post office experiences and incidents, and remarks on all subjects of postal interest. Now that the war and other public excitements are over, will not some of our friends give us and their fellow subscribers the benefit of some of the ideas which more engrossing occupations have heretofore caused to be bottled up? Uncork, gentlemen.

Exit Jeff.

The long tragedy of the war ended, a screaming farce succeeds, which will send echoes of laughter down through long generations. The shrewd chief of the rebellion, who with his glib and boastful promises of dying "with honors on his back" mingled vitriolic scoldings of "Yankee bywags," is tripped up ingloriously in his petticoats, and robed with them, is doomed to stand in the pillory of history a mark for the gibes and mockery of mankind to all future time. Charles H. "shining" up the royal oak—poor old Louis Philippe sneaking from Paris to England with his hazy cotton umbrella and borrowed name of "Mr. Smith"—could hardly have been very imposing spectacles to the sympathizers with "royalty in distress"; but what a halo of dignity surrounds those monarchs, even under such unfavorable circumstances, when compared with the "President of the Confederate States" hiding his limbs beneath feminine dimity, and huffed in the attempt to pass himself off as his own mother-in-law! The lofty bearing of Julius Caesar, dying in the Senate-house, decorously dying the death agony in his face in the folds of his toga, may well exact the tribute of a tear even from those who detest his tyranny, but suppose his career had ended in a "skedaddle" across the Pontine marshes, draped in Mrs. C's morning gown, could even Shakespeare have written a tragedy about that Jeff's ignominious exit from the stage on which he strutted so fitted his hour, has sunk him so low in the depths of the ridiculous that the hangman's rope of that is to be his fate will fail to raise him to the level of the sublime.

AMENDED AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS Under Act of March 3, 1865.

We published in our last number the Official Instructions to Postmasters, issued by the Department for their guidance, under the Act of March 3, 1865. That publication was made from an advance copy of those instructions, and since that time certain emendations and additions have been made to them, which we give below:

FREE AND UNPAID LETTERS.

INSTRUCTION, SEC. 1. (a.) Letters lawfully franked must be forwarded free as heretofore under section 42, act approved March 3, 1863, and instructions therewith issued, modified by act of June 1, 1864, which provides, substantially: That all communications on official business, of whatever origin, addressed to heads of the Executive Departments of Government, or heads of bureaus therein, or to Chief Clerks of Departments, or one authorized by the Postmaster General to frank official matter, shall be received and conveyed by mail free of postage, without being franked or endorsed "Official Business."

(c.) All domestic letters wholly unpaid, including "Drops," except "Request" letters above described, must be marked "Hold for postage," postmarked, and specially sent to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, accompanied by a list of persons addressed, a copy of which must be preserved by the postmaster for reference. The packages must be marked outside, "Hold for postage," and sent as unmailable letters, under Section 7, Instructions No. 7, law of March 3, 1863.

Paragraphs (b), (d) and (e) of Instructions under Sec. 1, remain unaltered.

CLERK-HIRE, KENT, FEEL, &c.

Instructions under Section 3 have been altered so as to read as follows:

INSTRUCTION, SEC. 3. Expenditures for clerk-hire, rent, fuel, and light, in the case of offices of the first and second classes, will be fixed by an order on the receipt of an estimate from the postmasters of such offices, and shall remain for one year, or until otherwise ordered; and other items of expense for furniture, stationery, &c., under this section, in the case of the same class of offices, must be made only under special authority from the Postmaster General, and applications must be made to him for such authority, accompanied with estimates, previous to incurring such expense.

Offices of the first and second classes will hereafter be furnished with envelopes for official use by the Department; and postmasters of those offices are prohibited from purchasing envelopes except in cases of emergency, when they must confine purchases to immediate wants, and an explanation must accompany the vouchers therefor.

Applications for envelopes must be made to the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Allowances, in the discretion of the Postmaster General, for any items of expense named in this section, to postmasters of the third and fourth classes, will be governed by section 6 of the act of July 1, 1864.

PENNYPOST MEN.

Instructions under Sec. 15 have been modified so as to read as follows:

INSTRUCTION, SEC. 15. Postmasters at offices where free delivery is not in operation, if in their opinion it will be beneficial to the service, may nominate one or more suitable persons to act as Pennypost men. Applications for the appointment of such men must be made to the First Assistant Postmaster General.

The general rules applicable to the free delivery system, as shown in Instructions under laws of March 3, 1863, and July 1, 1864, will apply to the Pennypost delivery, except so far as relates to compensation of carriers.

Pennypost men will receive no compensation other than the fees they may receive for delivering mail matter. They will demand not exceeding one cent for each letter they may deliver.

The rate of postage on Drop letters, where free delivery does not exist, will be one cent, always to be prepaid by stamps, which will be furnished to postmasters upon application to the Department; but at free delivery offices, the prepaid rate for "Drops" will be two cents, as heretofore.

OBSCENE BOOKS.

As we have not heretofore published any Instructions under Sec. 16, we reprint the section itself, with the accompanying instructions:

Sec. 16. And be it further enacted, That no obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication, of a vulgar and indecent character, shall be admitted into the mails of the United States. Any person or persons who shall deposit or cause to be deposited in any post office or branch post office of the United States, for mailing or for delivery, an obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication, knowing the same to be of a vulgar and indecent character, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, being duly convicted thereof, shall, for every such offence, be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, according to the circumstances and aggravation of the offence.

INSTRUCTION, SEC. 16. Violations of this section must be promptly noticed by postmasters, and the district attorney notified by them, when the party violating the law is known with reasonable certainty, and the evidence, including the obscene matter placed in the mail, is in their possession.

When the guilty party is not known, the books or other obscene matter must be sent to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, in a sealed package marked "SPECIAL," and, at the same time, a letter must be written informing him that the package has been sent.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS.

WRAPPING LETTERS.

It appears that a misconception has been placed upon a paragraph in a circular issued from this Department in October, 1864. It was not intended to authorize postmasters to abandon wrappers to the extent that has been unwarrantably practised to the embarrassment of the service. Postmasters are, therefore, now instructed to conform fully to the first paragraph of section 47, and to sections 42 and 43 of Chapter IV of the Regulations of 1859. Postmasters, however, whose offices are supplied in whole or in part by Railway Post Offices in operation, or to be put in operation hereafter, will be governed by instructions from the Superintendent of Railway Mail Service in regard to the manner of making up mails. The discontinuance of wrappers was intended to be confined to those offices receiving mails through Railway Post Offices, and to that service exclusively.

CANCELLING POSTAGE STAMPS.

Special attention is called to the regulations concerning post-marking letters and cancelling postage stamps.

The latter clause of the Regulations of 1859, section 397, is repealed, and the use of the office rating or post-marking stamp as a cancelling instrument is positively prohibited, inasmuch as the post mark, when impressed on the postage

stamp, is usually indistinct, and the cancellation effected thereby is imperfect. The postage stamp must therefore be effectually canceled with a separate instrument.

If the cancelling has been omitted on the mailing of the letter, packet, or parcel, or if the cancellation be incomplete, the postmaster at the office of delivery will cancel the stamp in the manner directed and forthwith report the delinquent postmaster to the Postmaster General, as the law requires.

Neglect of these duties on the part of a postmaster will be considered a sufficient cause for his removal from office.

N. B. Failure of postmasters to give their constant personal attention to their official duties, will be cause for removal.

WILLIAM DENNISON,

Postmaster General.

For the convenience of our readers, we copy the first paragraph of Section 47 and Sections 42 and 43, Regulations of 1859, referred to in the instructions above in regard to "Wrapping Letters":

"Sec. 47. The letters are to be made up into bundles and the post-bill with them, wrapped in paper of proper strength, and tied with twine."

"Sec. 42. Each package containing letters mailed and post-billed direct, should be plainly directed on the outside, with the name of the office to which it is to be sent, and of the county and State in which such office is situated."

"Sec. 43. Packages containing letters for distribution should be plainly directed in the same manner, with the addition of the letters D. P. O. (for Distributing Post Office) after the name of the office."

The Act of March 3, 1865, with the Instructions complete, have been printed in convenient form by the Department, and will be issued to all postmasters. They must be carefully preserved for reference.

Who was to Blame?

A week or two since, a letter arrived at the New York office, written by the cashier of a bank in a neighboring town, intended for a gentleman whom we will call Mr. Ebenezer Thompson, and addressed simply to "Mr. Ebenezer Thompson, New York." It contained a check to his order for over \$1,000. On its arrival at the post office in New York, it became clearly the duty of the clerks there to deliver it to the Department state (Sec. 78) that "the persons entitled to letters received by mail are those whose names are in the address." In the New York Directory were found the names of two Messrs. Ebenezer Thompson, and there being nothing in the address of the letter to indicate for which of the two the letter was intended, it was sent to the residence of the one whose name was printed first in the Directory. He received it, opened it, endorsed his name on the check, had his signature certified by a prominent city official, presented the check, obtained the money, and had spent more than half of it before it was ascertained that both letter and check belonged to the other Thompson. Then ensued an arrest for forgery, consultation of banks with lawyers to ascertain who was responsible for the money, much loss of time by a Special Agent, and divers other vexations and complications, ending after some days in the repayment of the money by the wrong Thompson to the right Thompson, and the release of the former from duress, he protesting his entire honesty in the matter, and proving previous good character. Who was to blame for all this confusion and trouble? Clearly the cashier of the bank, in omitting to insert the street and number—or at least the business—of Mr. Thompson, between that gentleman's name and that of the city in which he resides.

This is but one of at least a dozen similar cases that have recently occurred in the same city, and we have no doubt they are occurring daily in some part of the country; and they are made the ground of most unreasonable complaint against the post office. And yet we hardly think one of the complainants would blame an Express company for the wrong delivery of a package addressed in the same fashion as the letter referred to above. We regret that our paper, being confined in its circulation almost exclusively to post office officials, cannot do much towards convincing the public that they have no right to post letters bearing imperfect or indefinite directions, and then abuse the post office for not delivering them promptly and correctly. A postmaster or clerk—at least in large cities—has no means of knowing, except from the address, for whom any letter is intended; and when there are two or a dozen men in the city of the same name, he is not to be blamed if a letter for one of them, bearing only the name which is common to all of them, reaches the wrong man. It is so easy to include the street and number—or, if that is not known, the occupation—in an address, that those who willfully omit it are entitled to neither sympathy nor assistance in the loss or trouble which their inexcusable laziness and carelessness may produce. Postmasters and clerks, as opportunity offers, should represent to those mailing letters at their offices the importance of doing their share in securing their proper delivery. When letters are intended for persons residing only temporarily in the city to which they are to be sent, the words "to be kept till called for," will, if written on the face of the letters, prevent their improper delivery by carrier.

POST-BILLS.—CANCELLING.—Complaint reaches us from a large Distributing Post Office that many postmasters—and not always those at small offices—are in the habit of sending their post-bills sometimes without date and often with nothing to indicate whether the unpaid postage charged therein is due on matter intended for distribution or for delivery. This practice is certain to lead to confusion and discrepancies in the Accounts of Mails Received at Distributing Post Offices, and care should be taken to mark each bill either "D. P. O." or "city," as the case may be.

The Late "C. S. M."

The rebellion has proved a disastrous failure, even obstinate John Bull, its best friend, who chuckled gleefully and prophesied its success when it was born, encouraged it and aided it in its growth, and cuddled and nursed it during the last days of its shaky existence, has left its bedside and unwillingly admits that it is time to send for the undertaker. The rebels have failed in everything—in war, in diplomacy, in statesmanship, in finance—but nowhere, perhaps, more signally than in their attempt to manage their Post Office Department. At the outset they passed a brief enactment to the effect that all laws and regulations of the United States Post Office Department then in force should be adopted for the government of that of the "Confederate States." Then, as a matter of course, they stole all the United States mail-bags, locks, keys, and every other description of post office property they could lay their hands on. One would think that with all this material ready to their hands they might have run the postal machine with a tolerable degree of success; but somehow they never were able to make it work satisfactorily. There was a constant growl of discontent arising from the subjects of Jeff, from the time the unsubstantial pageant of his government started on its uncertain and perilous course, down to the time when "Postmaster General Reagan" floundered in the last ditch in his company. To be sure, some allowances must be made for the "interruption of mail communications" by the invading hosts of the Yankee; but even while the territory of the Confederacy was almost entirely unpopulated by their tread, its postal arrangements were universally voted by its citizens as a blundering, slovenly, vexatious and costly humbug. They have served as a butt for curses, sneers and contemptuous ridicule ever since their establishment. In 1862, the editor of the *Atlanta Confederacy* denounced them—being rendered somewhat incoherent by his wrath—as a system of "de-potic abolition," and reproached the "government" with being sensible enough to refuse to send its valuable packages by mail. The rebel postmasters seem, from the untidy, not to say filthy, condition in which their deserted post offices were found by our advancing forces, to have been no' at all particular as to how their business was conducted—for which, considering the pay they received, they are not much to be blamed. Railroad companies refused to carry route-agents with the mails, and the pouches were tumbled on the cars to reach their destination as best they might. Carelessness, irregularity and general "shilliness" controlled the whole postal system, according to the testimony of those who were obliged to make use of it. The task of restoring order to this chaotic state of affairs will be the duty of our own Department—a duty which it has already vigorously begun, and which in its progress will teach an impressive lesson of the difference between a real government and the bubble, inflated by a disorderly crew of traitors, which has just exploded and vanished.

Sentence of Mail Robber.

Albert V. Harlowe, convicted at the last term of the United States Court at Providence, R. I., was sentenced to two years imprisonment for stealing letters from the post office in that city, where he was employed as a clerk.

Nanning Lansing, a clerk in the post office at Lansingburgh, N. Y., was arrested on the 9th of May, for opening letters in that office directed to various persons, and abstracting money from them. He was subsequently taken to Rochester, and indicted at the May term of the United States Court at that place for the crime. Upon being arraigned, he pleaded guilty to the charge, and was sentenced by Judge Hull to ten years confinement at hard labor in the Albany Penitentiary.

Both arrests were made by Special Agent Sharretts.

DELIVERING ADVERTISED LETTERS.

The delivery of advertised letters, more especially at large offices, is a duty requiring, for its proper performance, the exercise of a considerable degree of tact and prudence. There is no doubt that the knowledge which is conveyed by such advertisements is often made use of by unprincipled persons to assist them in obtaining unlawful possession of the correspondence of others from motives either of curiosity or cupidity, and clerks who are entrusted with the delivery of this class of letters can hardly be too cautious and particular in requiring proof of the right of those who claim to receive them. A little judicious cross-examination of an applicant for an advertised letter will be found exceedingly useful. For instance, if the letter be addressed to a shoemaker, ask the applicant if he is a hatter; if directed to A—street, ask if he lives in B—street; if the letter be postmarked New Haven, ask if one is expected from New Orleans, &c. If there is sufficient probability of his ownership of the letter to warrant its being opened to ascertain the fact to a certainty, allow him to open it, but require it to be returned at once before reading; look at the signature, and if it be that of John Robinson, inquire if he has a correspondent named James Thompson, &c. The nature of the replies to these and similar questions, in connection with the manner and appearance of the applicant, will rarely fail to prove or disprove his claim. So, at least, we are informed by a gentleman of long experience as an "advertised letter clerk."

Answers to Correspondents.

Uncalled for Letters.—A. S. R., S.—Mo.—At small offices, where the list of uncalled for letters is not advertised, but posted up in manuscript in the office, it is probably not necessary to provide more than one copy of each list for the use of the public; but if it is likely to be of any convenience to the people, we should think that the list at "an office of the fifth class" can hardly be so extensive as to require the outlay of much time or trouble to make a record copy.

"Buying" Boxes.—D. L. C., D.—Mich.—Yours is rather a peculiar case. But it seems to us that if the former postmaster sold the boxes to individuals, who claim the use of them gratis on that account, that the sale of the boxes did not include you also. You should not deliver mail matter through boxes, the rent of which is not paid. If those who claim to own them should refuse to pay rent, let them call for and receive their mail matter at the general delivery. They cannot be permitted to "cut out the boxes" as they threaten to do.

Way Letters.—A. T. H., N.—Mass.—A mail carrier may receive letters and papers on his way to a route office and mail them there.

Newspaper Accounts.—G. R. W., O.—N. Y.—When a subscriber to a newspaper pays you a year's postage in advance at one payment, you can return the whole amount in your account for that quarter. It is not necessary nor proper to divide it into four payments and carry it through four quarters' accounts.

Stamp Collecting.—G. W. A., B.—Me.—The "Stamp Collector's Magazine" is, we believe, still published, at the old price. We would publish a sketch on this subject—interesting, and not too long.

Anonymous Inquirers.—We cannot reply, as a general thing, to anonymous inquiries, especially where there appears to be a covert design to injure some person by statements or insinuations contained in the letters of inquiry, as in the case with several we have received during the past month.

Unsealed Letters.—E. K., R.—Ohio.—You were right in charging full postage on an unsealed letter left with you for delivery by a mail carrier; and the carrier, in attempting to deliver it himself, violated the law. It is illegal to carry any letter, unsealed or not, outside of the mail—the opinions of a regiment of "chimey corner lawyers" to the contrary notwithstanding.

Box Rents Again.—C. K. B., W.—Ind.—You are required to pay over all box rents received by you, as are all postmasters.

Forwarding Registered Letters.—Asst. P. M., X.—Mich.—A registered letter can be forwarded. It should be sent as a registered letter, charged with extra postage if misdirected or if forwarded by request of the person to whom it is directed, but without extra charge if originally misdirected through an error in the post office. In neither case is an extra registry fee to be charged.

Assignment of Salary, &c.—W. C., Y.—Ill.—Your case has, perhaps, been overlooked, and you had better address Hoar A. W. Randall, 1st Assistant Postmaster General, with reference to the inquiries you make of us.

Timely Warnings.—R. J. B., C.—Ind.—If your friend insists upon giving you five dollars for warning him against sending ten dollars to a bogus lottery, we can see no objection to your receiving it.

Unpaid Distribution Matter.—W. M. P., S.—N. Y.—Post bills must always accompany unpaid matter sent to a D. P. O., and the amount unpaid must be entered on the bills, and also on the Accounts of Mails Sent.

"Refused" Newspapers.—J. B. P., J.—N. Y.—A notification to a publisher that a copy of his paper sent to your office is "refused," or for any other cause not taken out by the person to whom it is addressed, may be sent by you free by addressing it to the postmaster at the place where the paper is published, and adding the words "For Publishers of the _____" (naming the paper).

Three-Cent Coin.—A. S., O.—Ohio.—The new three-cent coin are not yet in general circulation, but doubtless soon will be.

Helping Themselves.—L. P. N., P.—Conn.—A postmaster or assistant should always be on hand during office hours to deliver mail matter to those who call for it, and should not allow them to help themselves, except from lock boxes. Postmasters are forbidden by regulation to allow any other than their sworn assistants to have access to mail matter in their charge, and all casual postmasters carry out this regulation strictly. At new offices, however, a general fumbling and inspection of the whole mail by any one who may desire it, is permitted. No person has a right to see or handle any other person's mail matter but his own or such as is authorized to receive, and for that he should ask the postmaster or assistant, who are to be paid to deliver it, and whose duty it is to do so.

Revenue Stamps.—P. J. G., L.—Ohio.—The revenue stamp which must be attached to the certificate signed by the magistrate before whom a postmaster swears to the correctness of his accounts, must be paid for by the postmaster—unless he can find some other person willing to do so.

Collecting Newspaper Postage.—G. W. A., E.—N. Y.—If a subscriber to a paper delivered from your office can show a receipt from your predecessor for an expired year's postage, or otherwise satisfy you that he has paid it, you cannot, of course, collect any part of that postage a second time.

Copies of Advertised Lists, &c.—S. J. W., M.—Ind.—1. The instructions on the back of the Account Current require that "the newspaper containing the advertisement" shall be transmitted with the printer's account and receipt. 2. The postage collected by you on all unpaid matter which you deliver must be in money, and such postage cannot be paid by stamps after it reaches your office unpaid. Stamps are only for pre-payment.

Sending Mutilated Currency to the Treasury.—J. B. Y., O.—N. Y.—All letters, whether from postmasters or others, containing mutilated currency, or on any other official business, addressed to the "Treasurer of the United States, Washington," are entitled to pass free in the mails, without endorsement of any kind. They cannot be sent free when addressed to Assistant Treasurers at New York, Philadelphia, &c.

Unpaid Drop Letters.—G. A., L.—Ky.—If an unpaid drop letter is deposited in your office, there can be no objection to your afterwards allowing a stamp to be affixed to it, if any person offers to do so, and then delivering it to its address.

Overcharges and Undercharges.—J. S. P., W.—Conn.—The amounts overcharged and undercharged on unpaid letters received at your office are to be entered daily on the blank furnished for that purpose by the Department. The gross amount of undercharges is, at the end of the quarter, to be charged in Article 3, and the overcharges credited in Article 10, of the Account Current.

Mailing "Direct" and to D. P. O.—G. W. H., X.—Ind.—Every postmaster should mail and post bill direct to the place addressed; 1st, all letters for his own State or Territory; 2d, all letters for post offices in other States or Territories, which should not pass through a distributing office on their proper route to the office of delivery; and 3d, all letters on which the instruction "mail direct" shall be written. All other letters than those noted above should be mailed to the distributing office through which they should first pass on the proper route to the place of destination—unless the office at which they are mailed be a distributing office.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1840. By J. HOLBROOK. Editor. NEW YORK JULY, 1865.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All papers stopped at the expiration of the term of subscription, unless a new subscription is remitted.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Postmaster General...

The following official order has also been issued by the Postmaster General: Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook...

DEAR SIR,—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, in the "United States Mail," as a medium of communication to Postmasters and others...

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper.

Important Correction.

UNPAID MATTER FOR DISTRIBUTION. As a paragraph in our last number on the subject of post-billing unpaid matter sent to Distributing Offices may have led to a misunderstanding on the part of some of our readers, we will set the matter right by stating that postmasters have already been instructed not to post bill either paid or unpaid matter sent to a D. P. O. for distribution.

As many postmasters have heretofore paid no attention to this rule, but have continued to post bill unpaid matter sent to Distributing Offices we hope this explanation will induce such of them as may read it to abandon the practice.

New Money Order Offices.

On our first page will be found a complete list of the Money Order Post Offices now in operation throughout the country four hundred and nineteen in all of which two hundred and eighty begin operations on the third of the present month.

Order System has been issued by the Department, which it is hardly necessary to state should be attentively studied and strictly followed by all postmasters and clerks at Money Order Offices.

Don't Overlook It.

At the close of the official instructions under the act of March 3rd, 1865, which we published in our last number, there appeared a brief paragraph so brief that some of our readers may possibly have failed to observe it—so we will print it again:

"N. B.—Failure of postmasters to give their constant personal attention to their official duties will be cause for removal."

WM. DENNISON, Postmaster General.

The Press and the Post Office.

It is not very long since one of the most prominent newspapers of the country preferred certain complaints of mail irregularities, through which it was alleged, its editor had suffered, by stigmatizing the post office as the "most conspicuous blemish and failure in all this broad land," and desiring the government to "get out of the way," and allow the people to depend upon private enterprise for the transmission of their correspondence, as they do for the transaction of their telegraph and express business.

The post office being under the exclusive control of the government, and an institution affecting more closely the welfare and interests of every inhabitant of the land than any other, should not, and does not, claim exemption from fair and free criticism on the part of the press or the people; nor should any one connected with it object to being held by them to the strictest accountability for his official acts.

It will be seen from the following correspondence that Postmaster Kelly, of New York, has set a good example in this way; and we hear that many other postmasters throughout the country have done likewise. The first letter below is from the Executive Committee of the "Bureau of Employment for Disabled and Discharged Soldiers," at New York:

"Hon. Wm. Dennison, Postmaster General: Sir: We enclose to you a correspondence between the late lamented President of the United States and the President and Executive Committee of the 'Bureau of Employment for Disabled and Discharged Soldiers and Sailors.' We assume that the views of President Lincoln, as therein expressed, are identical with those of his successor, and the present Postmaster General.

"We therefore desire to call your attention to the fact that Mr. Kelly, Postmaster of this city, has most heartily co-operated with us in our efforts by employing between sixty and seventy discharged soldiers in his department; and we believe that some positive directions from your department, having so desirable an end in view, would relieve many from political applications which now harass them; and the worthy example initiated by Mr. Kelly would be universally followed.

Postal Reconstruction.

Embedded in each of the proclamations which have recently been issued by President Johnson providing for the reconstruction of the States recently in rebellion, is a brief paragraph instructing the Postmaster General to proceed to establish post-offices and post-routes, and put into execution the postal laws of the United States within said State, giving to loyal residents the preference of appointment; but if suitable residents are not found, then to appoint agents, &c. from other States.

bogus government provided in place of the system which it had deprived them of; and they will gladly hail the reappearance among them of a bona fide postal establishment, as the symbol and companion of returning peace, security and comfort. May it also prove the auxiliary of returning good sense, loyalty and patriotism.

Discharged Soldiers in Post Offices.

We have on several occasions advocated in these columns the claims of discharged soldiers to a favorable preference by all those who have employment of any nature in their gift, and have especially urged upon postmasters the propriety of filling such clerkships and other appointments as are at their disposal with wounded and disabled soldiers and sailors who are competent to fulfill the duties required of them; and we now take great pleasure in publishing the following letter from Postmaster General Dennison on this subject. We trust that all postmasters will lose no opportunity of rewarding in this way the brave veterans to whom we are indebted for the salvation of our country from the ruin which traitors sought to bring upon it.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, June 19, 1865.

To Postmasters: Congress has by joint resolution, approved March 3, 1865, declared "That persons honorably discharged from the military or naval service, by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty, should be preferred for appointments to civil offices, provided they shall be found to possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of such offices," and it being my desire to carry into effect, as far as practicable, the laudable purpose of this resolution, it is earnestly requested of all postmasters who have occasion to appoint clerks or other employees in their respective offices, that they give the preference to such wounded or disabled soldiers and sailors who have been honorably discharged from the military or naval service, as are found qualified to perform satisfactorily the duties of the positions for which they apply.

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REPLY.

"POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, June 19, 1865. Messrs. Howard Potter, W. E. Dodge, Jr., and Theodore Roosevelt, Executive Committee, &c.: Gentlemen: The Postmaster General has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 29th ultimo, and to say that he is glad to learn that the Postmaster of New York has co-operated with your excellent association by giving employment in his office to so large a number of disabled and discharged soldiers.

"The claims of this meritorious class of our citizens are fully appreciated and recognized by the Postmaster General, who has this day addressed a letter to postmasters, requesting them, whenever they have occasion to appoint subordinates in their respective offices, to give the preference to such wounded and disabled soldiers and sailors as are found qualified to perform satisfactorily the required duties.

"I am, very respectfully, Your obedient servant, JOSEPH H. BLACKFAN, Chief Clerk."

CLERK-HIRE, RENT, FUEL AND LIGHT.

As some of our subscribers seem to be somewhat in the dark regarding the regulations of the Department concerning expenditures for the above items at post offices of the various classes, we give below an abstract of the latest instructions of the Postmaster General on this subject: Expenditure for clerk-hire, rent, fuel, and light, in the case of offices of the first and second classes, will be fixed by an order on the receipt of an estimate from the postmasters of such offices, and shall remain for one year, or until otherwise ordered; and other items of expense for furniture, stationery, &c., under this section, in the case of the same class of offices, must be made under special authority from the Postmaster General, and applications must be made to him for such authority, accompanied with estimates, previous to incurring such expense.

Allowances, in the discretion of the Postmaster General, for any items of expense named in section 3, act of March 3d, 1865, to postmasters of the third and fourth classes, will be governed by section 6 of the act of July 1st, 1864, which provides that "the Postmaster General may designate certain convenient offices, at the intersection of mail routes, as distributing offices; and certain other as separating offices; and where any such office is of the third, fourth or fifth class of the post offices, he may make a reasonable allowance to such postmaster, for the necessary cost, in whole or in part, of clerical services arising from such duties."

It will be carefully noted that the authority of the Postmaster General must in all cases be obtained by postmasters before incurring any expense for the items named.

POST OFFICE COMPLIMENT EXTRAORDINARY.

The officers in charge of the postal service and their clerks are rarely praised, though they are very frequently and very freely censured. The following letter to Postmaster Kelly has caused a sensation in the Post Office, on account of its complimentary character:

"New York, June 30, 1865.

Dear sir: I propose to give up box 3349 from this date. Please have all letters addressed to me, or to Hall's Journal of Health, sent by carrier to 2 West Forty-third street.

I have had this box since May, 1851. Of all the money mailed by me, not a single letter has failed to reach its destination safely; and of the tens of thousands of money letters sent to me, I have no reason to believe that a single one failed to come to hand. Reason: I always put in and took out my own letters.

From all the young gentlemen who have attended the box delivery, I have not failed in a single instance to receive the most prompt, courteous and willing attention.

Very truly yours, W. W. HALL, Editor Hall's Journal of Health."

Answers to Correspondents.

Remailed Matter.—H. W. B.—Ms.—A subscriber to a magazine cannot re-mail any of the copies he receives, either for delivery from your post office, or to be forwarded to other offices, without pre-paying the same by stamps at transient rates of postage.

Searching for Letters.—C. H. R. F.—Wis.—There is no law compelling a clerk to look for letters for individuals when he knows there are none for them? You say that you are "blessed with a good memory, and can tell nine times out of ten if there is a letter for any person who calls." Our advice is, that the first time you discover that your dependence on your good memory has caused you to send away a letterless a person for whom there is a letter, you will thereafter depend on your eyes instead of your memory.

Registers.—H. M. A.—Mass.—Registers of the arrivals and departures of mails are to be kept only by postmasters at the ends of routes, and such other postmasters as may be directed to do so by the Postmaster General.

Receipts for Quarterly Postage, &c.—E. P. R.—Ms.—The receipts for the quarterly postage on the papers published and mailed by you should be made out by you and presented to the postmaster for signature, at the time of payment. He is then obliged to sign them. (Sec. 144, Regulations of 1859.) We shall publish an article in regard to your other questions this month or next.

R. S.—J. W. B. N.—Conn.—Any railroad in which you know to be guilty of conveying letters on private business out of the mail, not referring to freight conveyed by the same train, but falsely marked "Railroad Service," should be reported to the Department. The case mentioned by you has been brought to the attention of a Special Agent for investigation.

"Charging up" Letters from D. P. O.'s.—J. M. C. B.—Kansas.—Unpaid and partial bills from Distributing Post Offices to the offices of delivery should be sent with the amount due thereon marked on the letters as well as on the post-bills. It might be well to see your M. C. on the other subject referred to in your letter.

Extra Mails.—J. P. B. J.—N. Y.—There can be no objection whatever to your employing a sworn carrier at your own expense, to not receive it in regular course. If, however, there is a dispute on this subject between yourself and the postmaster at the separating office from which your mail is received, you had better write the Contract Office on the subject. We will state once more that you cannot, under any circumstances, collect and retain box-rents.

Old Post Office Papers.—H. H. P.—Conn.—The old copies of accounts of mails received, quarterly accounts, and other similar documents, which have accumulated in your office for more than two years, may be sold as waste paper, and the proceeds credited to the Department.

Newly Appointed Postmasters.—R. H. R. M.—Ills.—A newly appointed postmaster who takes possession of an office in the middle of, or at any time during, an official quarter, should, at the end of that quarter, make out his account for the balance of the quarter from the time at which he took charge of the office, and not for the whole quarter. His predecessor, or his predecessor's surties, are responsible for all indebtedness to the Department up to the time of his resignation, removal or death, and his account for the first portion of the quarter should be made out separately.

One Cent Stamps.—C. H. B. A.—Ills.—The one cent stamps are still issued by the Department.

Paying Unpaid Postage.—H. H. W.—Va.—You are at liberty to deliver newspapers, periodicals and unpaid letters, by putting the amount due thereon in the post office drawer out of your own pocket at the time of delivery, and then collect it (as a private debt) when you please." 2. See standing article in this paper under head of "Post Office Blanks."

Postage on Small Newspapers.—L. S. B.—Pa.—The postage on small religious, educational or agricultural papers, issued less frequently than once a week, is not paid for each four ounces or fraction thereof when sent in packages to one address, which must be paid quarterly or yearly in advance. In case of doubt, send a copy of the paper to the 1st Assistant Postmaster General for his decision.

Misdirected Books.—J. S. P.—Iowa.—You were right in charging additional postage for forwarding to its proper address a package of books misdirected to your office.

Registered Letters.—J. L. C. P.—Ind.—You are wrong. Registered letters should never be sent in a distribution bundle. When sent to a D. P. O., they should be enclosed in an envelope and addressed and forwarded to the postmaster of that office, exactly as if for delivery there. Whether sent direct to the office of delivery, or to a D. P. O., they should always be enclosed in an envelope or wrapper, and addressed to the postmaster.

"Drop" Circulars, &c.—Z. W. C.—Ind.—The postage on "drop" circulars and newspapers is the same as when they are forwarded by mail. The "last week of the quarter" during which you are to count the number of letters received for delivery, means the last six working days of the quarter. Address the Blank Agent, as heretofore, for blanks and wrapping papers. Such orders can be sent free. 4. See article in another column on the subject of stationery, lights, &c.

Charges on Advertised Letters.—E. B. M.—Iowa.—Postmasters who advertise letters in newspapers under Instruction No. 7, issued with Act of March 3, 1863, are authorized to pay not more than two cents for each letter so advertised, marking thereon for each letter and collecting it on delivery. It will be observed that only at those offices whose gross receipts are \$1,000 or more per annum, are letters to be advertised by posting manuscript lists, for which no compensation is allowed; and of course no charge is made on delivery for advertising such letters.

"Refused" Letters.—J. D.—N. J.—When a letter is delivered, and the postage paid thereon, the postage should not be returned after the letter has been opened, except in cases where the postmaster is satisfied it has been opened by the wrong person by mistake. Sec. 84, Regulations of 1859. A little firmness in enforcing this rule will, we think, put a stop to the trouble you complain of.

"List of Registered Voters."—C. P. P. B.—Ills.—The person who sent you the circular asking you to furnish him with a list of the registered voters in your township, is known to us to be in the habit of supplying names, from the lists he so receives, to selling lottery tickets, to be used by them in selling fraudulent circulars. Of course, as an honest man, you will decline to aid in this scheme, and pay no attention to his request.

Enclosures in Foreign Papers.—C. W. R. N.—O.—When foreign (or other) papers arrive at your office containing "silk packages" or any other article, the whole package should be charged with letter postage, which should be collected before delivery.

Unpaid Letters.—T. W. P.—Pa.—When you discover, before cancelling the stamps on a letter, that more are affixed than are necessary, you need cancel only such as are necessary to pay the postage. It is, however, the duty of those who post them to see that they are not overpaid, and no time need be wasted by you in seeking to discover such errors.

Enclosing Circulars, &c., in Newspapers.—T. B. K. S.—O.—Handbills and circulars enclosed in newspapers sent by mail, whether as transient matter or for regular postage, subject the entire package to regular postage. You are authorized to examine any packages suspected to contain such matter, and, if you find it, to treat such package as unpaid.

COMMUNICATIONS.

S.—Mich., June, 1865. Editor U. S. Mail:—I have been more or less in the postal service of Uncle Samuel, at intervals, for several years, and I read the Mail with much interest, and find nothing profitable instruction, or reminded of some heretofore forgotten duty. I suppose, like others in this vocation, some times have ideas of my own, that if they could be put in practical operation, would produce great reforms, I think; and as in your last number you give a general invitation to "uncork," I hasten to relieve my long pent-up thoughts upon the

COLLECTION OF NEWSPAPER JUSTICES.

My experience in the post office justifies me in the belief that strict attention to the collection of postage on newspapers and magazines from regular subscribers, and making the necessary returns thereof to the Department, is the most annoying duty of a country postmaster. Contentions, misunderstandings and disputes of all sorts between a postmaster and those who receive mail, arise more frequently in the collection of this postage than any other. For the lady who takes her own person's at three cents a mail, he must be constantly watching to collect the three cents. Hold on to the magazine, indeed! "Did you 'spose I was going to cheat you out of it?" Mr. Smith supposed "they paid their own postage," he never having been dunned for postage on his paper before by my predecessor, Mr. Jones, who wants to know "how this happens." He paid his postage for a year before he left Greenville, and his paper is sent on to him. Has he got to pay the postage? Can Mr. Peters be positively certain that this is the third time this quarter that he has paid five cents on his weekly paper. And so on, with "unless variations." The remedy I propose is this: pre-payment of newspaper and magazine postage by the public. What is not nearly as practicable as pre-payment of letters? Think of the immense labor saved in all post offices. Think of the fact (for it is undeniable) that in many an office the collection of newspaper postage receives very little attention.

I can see no reason why all mail matter should not be pre-paid. Indeed, with the then certainty of having all the postage, the Government might still further reduce the rates. Let everything be graduated by weight and prepaid—everything that is transient—and for the regular matter, uniform rates could be found, that would be cheaper and more simplified even than they are now. I should like to bear from others on this point, and to know what objections there can be to the compulsory pre-payment of this class of postage. But while this remains unaccomplished, I wish the Government would issue a blank for newspaper accounts, somewhat as follows, in pamphlet form and covers: Name of publication; where published; subscriber's name; quarterly rate of postage; frequency of arrival; paid to Sept. 30, 1865; paid to Dec. 31, 1865; paid to March 31, 1866; &c., &c. These headings should be across the top of each page, or in an open book, extending from the left to the extreme right, inserting blank dates enough for two or three years. Then when a man paid five cents for his weekly to September 30, put down a figure "5" in that column, and if for a year, put down a figure "5" in each quarter, and whenever the amount is returned to the Government, draw a line across the figures returned. If a subscriber's paper stops, a capital "S" may be entered in the column he has last paid to, and his name and name of paper left standing, so that if a few months later he receives his subscription, the blank is ready to receive his postage as he pays it in. I have sketched together half a quire of foolscap, and have written on the headings after the foregoing plan, and I find it more convenient than any expedient I have yet resorted to,

UNITED STATES MAIL.

TABLE OF POSTAGES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letters.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Printed Matter.

The Asterisk (*) indicates that in cases where it is prefixed, unless the letter be registered, prepayment is optional; in all other cases, prepayment is required.

Postage on Letters.

TO THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES. Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, and Nova Scotia. Newfoundland and Labrador. Prepaid. To Canada when distance exceeds 3,000 miles, per 100 lbs. any distance. Prepayment optional. Steamers of the Cunard line sail from Boston twice each month, touching at Halifax, and when letters are sent by that conveyance for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island, the U.S. postage is 5 cents the single rate, to be prepaid. The inland rate is collected on delivery. On newspapers by this route, the postage is two cents each. Newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and sent to regular subscribers in the British North American Provinces, or published in those Provinces and sent to regular subscribers in the United States, are chargeable with the regular prepaid quarterly rates of United States postage to and from the line; which postage must be collected at the office of mailing in the United States on matter sent, and at the office of delivery in the United States on matter received. In like manner, such matter, if transmitted to the office of the regular domestic transient printed matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States, as the case may be. Editors, however, may exchange their papers with the regular domestic transient printed matter rates to and from the line, to be collected at the office of mailing or delivery in the United States, as the case may be. Letters received from Canada, to which are affixed uncancelled United States postage stamps of sufficient value to prepay the full postage chargeable thereon, should be delivered without charge by the United States offices. REGULATIONS OF LETTERS. Valuable letters for Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen or Hamburg mail via New York, or by the Prussian closed mail via New York and Boston, as also letters addressed to Great Britain and Canada, will be registered on the dispatch of the person posting the same, in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States, provided that the full postage chargeable thereon is paid in advance, together with a *postpaid* rate of twenty cents on each letter to Great Britain or to any other place above is prepaid at the mailing office. Such letters will be mailed and forwarded to the respective United States exchange offices in the same manner as domestic registered letters are mailed to those offices. RULE OF RATING LETTERS, ETC. All letters to and from foreign countries (the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, France and the British North American Provinces excepted) are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of half an ounce; double rate, if exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding an ounce; quadruple rate, if exceeding an ounce, but not exceeding two ounces; and so on, charging two rates for every ounce or fractional part of an ounce over the first ounce. As this rule differs from that followed in respect to domestic letters, great care is requisite to prevent mistakes. Letters in the mail to France are to be charged with single rate of postage, if not exceeding the weight of one quarter ounce; double rate, if exceeding a quarter, but not exceeding half an ounce; and so on, an additional rate being charged for each quarter of half an ounce, or fractional part of a quarter ounce. Letters addressed to the German States, &c., when sent via Bremen or Hamburg, and the British North American Provinces, are rated in the same manner as domestic letters, one rate being charged for each half ounce or fractional part of half an ounce. Postmasters should be careful, where the postage is prepaid, to collect the proper amount. They should be particular to notice the *value indicated* on the envelopes of letters, and to collect postage accordingly. Letters mailed at some offices, marked "via England" or "via Bremen or Hamburg," for a German State, are frequently taken upon the prepayment of Bremen rates, or those marked "via Bremen" at Prussian closed rates, &c. RULE OF RATING LETTERS GOING VIA FRANCE. In the case of letters to be forwarded in the British mail by transmission from England via "Marseilles," the French postage is rated on the weight of the letter, except on letters for Java, China, Labuan, Borneo, Japan, the Moluccas and Philippine Islands, which are rated at eight cents per half ounce, and except also, on letters for Syria and Tunis, which are rated at the same single French rate of 12 cents per half ounce, when the letter is sent to the destination. The rates by "France" are in full to destination, except to the following places, viz: Aden, Batavia, Canton, China, cities of Turkey, in Europe, except as herein mentioned, via Austria, and cities of which correspondence can be sent via Suez, countries of the seas, via France, other than those enumerated, East Indies, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Java, Mauritius, Montenegro, Penang, Portugal, Isle of France, and St. Helena, except Belgrade, Shanghai, Singapore, and Siam, (except Belgrade), to Servia, (except Belgrade), Montenegro, and to Austria, (except Belgrade), to Montenegro, to Aden, East Indies, Ceylon, China, and other countries via Suez, the seaports of the Indies, or to the cities of China to which the English packets ply; and to places beyond seas, other than those designated, the limit is the port of arrival in the country of destination. Letters may be forwarded in the French mails to Molava, Wallachia, and Turkey in Europe, by way of France and Austria; but the postage thereon must in all cases be paid at the place of destination. RATES ON PAMPHLETS, MAGAZINES, ETC. On pamphlets and magazines, to or from the West coast of South America, the United States postage is four cents; and to or from all other foreign countries, (except Great Britain, Belgium, and the German States, via Bremen or Hamburg mail, two cents per 4 oz. or fraction thereof, to be collected in all cases in the United States. Newspapers and periodicals to foreign countries (particularly to the continent of Europe) may be sent in narrow bands, open at the sides or ends; otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage. ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION, ETC. To prevent mistakes at the exchange offices, it is desirable that the particular routes by which letters are to be forwarded from the United States to Europe, should be distinctly written on the covers. Letters intended for transmission in the open mail to England, should bear the direction "open mail via England;" for transmission in the French mail, they should be directed, "via France in French mail;" if for transmission by closed mail to Prussia, they should be directed "via Prussian closed mail;" if for transmission to Belgium, they should be directed "via Belgian closed mail;" and if for transmission by the New York and Hamburg line to Bremen, or by the New York and Hamburg line to Hamburg, they should be directed "via Bremen" or "via Hamburg."

COUNTRIES.

Countries	Not exceeding 1/4 oz.	1/4 to 1/2 oz.	1/2 to 3/4 oz.	3/4 to 1 oz.
Acapulco	10	2	4	6
Aden, British Mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	57
do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
do French mail	30	36	42	48
Adriatic, French mail	30	36	42	48
Africa, (West Coast), British mail	39	45	51	57
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do French mail	30	36	42	48
do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	30	36	42	48
do do do by Brit. pkt.	30	36	42	48
Alexandria, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do French mail	30	36	42	48
do do open mail, via England, by Am. pkt.	30	36	42	48
do do do by Brit. pkt.	30	36	42	48
Algeria, French mail	30	36	42	48
Altona, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 31c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Antivari, French mail	30	36	42	48
Arabia, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	57
do do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
Argentina, Republic, via England	30	36	42	48
do do do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	36	42	48
do do do via England	30	36	42	48
Aspinwall, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
Australia, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	57
do do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
do do do by private ship from N. York or Boston	30	36	42	48
do do do French mail (South Austr. country)	30	36	42	48
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Suez	30	36	42	48
do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Trieste	30	36	42	48
Austria and its States, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do when prepaid	30	36	42	48
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do (except prov. in Italy) French mail	30	36	42	48
Azores Island, British mail, via Portugal	39	45	51	57
Baden, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 25c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Bahamas, by direct steamer from New York	30	36	42	48
Bahok, Siam, via Southampton	39	45	51	57
Baku, British mail, via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
Batavia, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	57
do do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
Bavaria, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do when prepaid	30	36	42	48
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Belgium, French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do via England	30	36	42	48
do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by British packet	30	36	42	48
Belgrade, do do do by American pkt.	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by British packet	30	36	42	48
Beyrout, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Bogota, New Granada	30	36	42	48
Bolivia	30	36	42	48
Borneo, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	57
do do do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
Boston, French mail, via Southampton	30	36	42	48
do do do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Brazil, via England	30	36	42	48
do do do do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	36	42	48
Bremen, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do when prepaid	30	36	42	48
do do do do by Bremen mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Brit. N. Am. Prov., except Canada and New Brunswick, distance not over 3,000 miles	30	36	42	48
do do do do exceeding 3,000 miles	30	36	42	48
Brunswick, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do when prepaid	30	36	42	48
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Buenaventura	30	36	42	48
Buenos Ayres, via England	30	36	42	48
do do do do via France, in Fr. mail from Bordeaux	30	36	42	48
Canada, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do via England	30	36	42	48
do do do do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by British packet	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do by American packet	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by British packet	30	36	42	48
do do do do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Cape of Good Hope, Brit. Mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	57
do do do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
Cape de Verde Islands, via England	30	36	42	48
do do do do in French mail, via Bordeaux and Lisbon	30	36	42	48
Carthage	30	36	42	48
Canton, Pac. Slope, via Panama	30	36	42	48
Ceylon, open mail, via London, by American pkt.	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by British packet	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do via Southampton	30	36	42	48
do do do do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
Chili	30	36	42	48
China, British mail, via Southampton	39	45	51	57
do do do do via Marseilles	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by Brit. or Hamb'g mail, via Marseilles & Suez	30	36	42	48
do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by mail to San Fran., thence by private ship	30	36	42	48
do do do do do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do by Brit. pkt.	30	36	42	48
Corfu, see Ionian Islands	30	36	42	48
Corsica, British mail, by American packet	30	36	42	48
do do do do by British packet	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Costa Rica	30	36	42	48
Cuba	30	36	42	48
Curaçao, via England	30	36	42	48
Cuxhaven, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do when prepaid	30	36	42	48
do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Dardanelles, Prus. closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Denmark, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Durazzo, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
East Indies, open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by Brit. packet	30	36	42	48
do do do do do Prussian closed mail, via Trieste	30	36	42	48
do do do do do (English possessions) Prussian closed mail, via Trieste	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Marseilles and Suez	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail, via Trieste	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Ecuador	30	36	42	48
Egypt, (except Alexandria, Cairo and Suez)	30	36	42	48
do do do do via Southampton	30	36	42	48
do do do do do (except Alexandria, Cairo and Suez)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do by Marseilles	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do (To places excepted above, 21c. by U.S. packet or 5c. by Brit. packet, per 4 oz. prepayment compulsory.)	30	36	42	48
Falkland Islands, via England	30	36	42	48
France	30	36	42	48
Frankfort, French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do when prepaid	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Galatz, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48

COUNTRIES.

Countries	Not exceeding 1/4 oz.	1/4 to 1/2 oz.	1/2 to 3/4 oz.	3/4 to 1 oz.
Palatz, open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2	4	6
do do do do do by Brit. pkt.	21	2	4	6
Gallipoli, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Gambia, via England	30	36	42	48
Gaulepoupe, via England	30	36	42	48
German States, Prus. closed mail (if prepaid, 28c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do Bremen mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do (except Luxembourg) by Hamb'g mail	30	36	42	48
Gibraltar, French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2	4	6
do do do do do do by British packet	21	2	4	6
do do do do do do Great Britain and Ireland	21	2	4	6
Greece, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 40c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do open mail, via London, by American pkt.	21	2	4	6
do do do do do do do by British packet	21	2	4	6
Hamburg, by Hamburg mail, direct from N. York	30	36	42	48
do do do do do Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do when prepaid	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Hanover, Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do when prepaid	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Havana, see Cuba	30	36	42	48
Hayti, via England	30	36	42	48
Hellgoland, Island of, by British mail, in Am. pkt.	21	2	4	6
do do do do do in British pkt.	21	2	4	6
Holland, French mail, via England, by private ship	30	36	42	48
do do do do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2	4	6
do do do do do do do by British packet	21	2	4	6
Holstein, Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
Honduras	30	36	42	48
Hong Kong, Brit. mail, via Marseilles	39	45	51	57
do do do do do via Southampton	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do Indian Archipelago, French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do do by Marseilles	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do do do by British packet	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do do do open mail, via London, by Am. pkt.	21	2	4	6
do do do do do do do do do by British packet	21	2	4	6
do do do do do do do do do French mail	30	36	42	48
do do do do do do do do do Prussian closed mail (if prepaid, 35c.)	30	36	42	48
do by Bremen or Hamburg mail	30	36	42	48
do French mail	30	36	42	48
do open British mail, by American packet	21	2	4	6
do by British packet	21	2	4	6
do French mail	30	36	42	48
do Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do open British mail, by American packet	21	2	4	6
do by British packet	21	2	4	6
do French mail	30	36	42	48
do Prussian closed mail	30	36	42	48
do open British mail, by American packet	21	2	4	6
do by British packet	21	2	4	6
do French mail	30	36	42	

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. V., No. 11.

NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1865.

WHOLE No. 59.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

By a wise provision of Nature, nuts and the seeds of fruits and flowers are distributed in inaccessible places, through the instrumentality of animals, who unconsciously convey them to distant points in their fur and feathers; and thus the living creatures, indigenous to such localities, are supplied with food and shelter for the body and floral glories for the eye. Fur and feathers do the ploughing and planting, the generous clouds contribute the necessary moisture, Sol and Luna perform their allotted functions, and the stirring nature leads the countless diversified young germs up through the yielding soil and shapes them into stately trees, modest shrubbery, yellow corn, blue-blossomed clover, and every variety of luxurious undergrowth, and interlacing and overhanging vines, imaginable.

What nature does by animal aid for the vegetable kingdom, Art, with steam and iron, has done and is doing for the animal kingdom. By bridging rivers, tunnelling mountains, filling up hollows and swamps, and cutting away forests and hills, a system of railway communication has been perfected which makes the inhabitants of opposite mountain sides neighbors, and the dwellers in once separate valleys daily visitors. Distance is annihilated, and the pang of parting for a contemplated journey is not aggravated by the thought of going "Over the hills and far away," once so suggestive of weary, weary miles and fog separation. But what that song was written, our grandfathers' great-grandfathers and stage coaches were in their infancy, and a journey of a few hundred miles a matter of such importance as to summon neighbors and friends to witness the departure of an adventurous traveler, after whom old shoes were thrown, which his superstitious well-wishers implicitly believed protected him from harm by the way, and secured his safe return. Wherever these iron hands are stretched, knowledge and enterprise locate, and rural skill and rural intelligence are familiarized with metropolitan accomplishments and metropolitan commercial and manufacturing purposes. Of course, as link after link is formed in the iron chain connecting cities, towns and villages, the desire to hear and be heard from creates a paramount want, which is supplied by our always liberal government—that is, the establishment of a post office, the appointment of postmaster, and the adoption of the requisite modes to receive and despatch mails, which is all done speedily, quietly and effectually. In the old time, the "mail day," which perhaps came once or twice a week, was waited for with much impatience, and the arrival of the carrier, sometimes on a coach, sometimes astride a horse, and sometimes on foot, heralding his own approach by vigorously blowing a horn, was the signal for a general surcease of business, and a grand rush to the primitive post office, where the people, however eager and expectant, waited patiently until the mail was opened, and they could be served. But under the new order of things, created by the constantly increasing and wide-spreading network of railways, the commendable attribute of patience flourishes badly; even the telegraph which flashes news through the wires "ahead of time," is frequently denounced as laggard. It is not surprising, therefore, that modern post office patrons should get on the "rampage" occasionally, and denounce the Department for not receiving and delivering mails twenty-four times a day; that they should howl like porpoises for not receiving letters in twelve hours, which under no circumstances could get through under forty-eight, and that they should charge officials with purloining or detaining letters that were never written, or if written, so superseded as to ensure their going to any office but the right one, or negligently or carelessly thrown into the office without being stamped, and sent thence to the Dead Letter Office.

The solid, inestimable value of postal facilities I do not think are properly appreciated in this country, upon the principle, perhaps, that "man never's but always to be blest;" but the accidental failure or delay of a mail, the loss of one letter in a million by accident or design, or the unintentional detention of a newspaper—when the fault is not with the publisher—furnishes material for unqualified abuse, which is unmerited, improper and unpardonable. I belong to the class of scolds; I told you how I grew so, and the thing has become chronic; but I don't blame post office people for what is beyond their control. Goodness knows, their shortcomings are not limited, and I have repeatedly told what they were; but in the distribution of sympathies and antipathies, their share should be six parts of the former to one of the latter.

I don't want you to suppose that I intend apologizing for anything I have said in regard to reprehensible non-performance of duties. No, sir. But while I claim the right as a citizen to criticize the conduct of officials, I deem it a duty, as a true man, to give credit to merit where it is deserved. I believe my post office people in remote places err through ignorance, and from some cause are denied the privilege of

receiving information from the columns of your paper. Now I would suggest that postmasters who are intelligent and fortunate enough to be subscribers, should take pains to send the seeds of intelligence into out-of-the-way localities—not through the instrumentality of birds and quadrupeds—but by giving information that there is such a paper as the *U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant*, its specific purpose, how useful it is, and where it may be obtained.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

Boxes vs. Carriers.

Below will be found a communication from a correspondent who seems to have some decided opinions on this subject, and to whom we are quite willing to afford space for their ventilation:

Editor U. S. Mail:—Some time since, an article or two appeared in your paper touching the comparative merits of the box and carrier systems of letter delivery. Since that time I have seen no further reference to the matter; but as it is one in which I take a great interest, and one, I believe, among the most important questions connected with the postal service, I ask permission to offer, as briefly as may be—and for what they are worth—a few remarks in regard to it.

I believe the box system in large cities (and it is with reference to those cities only that I shall write) to combine so many disadvantages and evils of an ineradicable and incurable nature, that nothing short of its complete abolition will afford any relief to the public and the Department, who are the sufferers from those evils and disadvantages. As the Irish physician remarked when called to a case of hydrophobia, "the only cure for that patient is smothering." Let me give a few reasons for my faith in this remedy:

1.—Nine merchants (who form the majority of boxholders) out of ten, will never consent to call for their letters themselves, nor spare their bookkeepers or confidential clerks to do so. It is always the porter or the youngest errand boy who is saddled with the drudgery of waiting in the line for the letters. What the result of this often is, you know quite as well as I; and if the punishment of such heedlessness fell altogether upon the boxholders it would be no business of yours, or of mine or of the post office. But so soon as money, drafts and orders begin to disappear, the irate boxholder "feels it his duty" to inform Mr. Postmaster that the post office clerks are stealing, and "exercising a little self-denial in the matter of letters for a while, wears his gold watch only on Sundays, smokes his expensive cigars only at home, and Mr. Boxholder scowls savagely at "that den of thieves" every time he passes the post office thereafter. The great majority of losses that occur from the above cause will always be unjustly charged to the post office.

2.—The number of names which each boxing-clerk is obliged to store up in the warehouse of his memory is so large that it is small cause for wonder that the strain and pressure render that edifice unsafe and shaky, as they most undoubtedly do. I will appeal to any candid boxing-clerk who may read this, to say whether a day (I had almost said an hour) passes in which half a dozen letters are not returned to him by persons to whom they have been delivered, with the remarks—"Wrong box," "Not for us," etc., etc. How many such letters are not returned, deponent saith not, and wouldn't it be to guess.

3.—Mr. Jeremiah Jones, the storekeeper from the rural districts, being about to visit the city, and being uncertain as to where his local habitation while there will be, instructs Mrs. Jones and his clerk to address their letters, during his absence, to "New York," thinking—good, easy man—to receive them from the general delivery clerk on demand. But Mr. Jeremiah Jones, the merchant prince, has had a box for thirty years, and into it go Jones, the country storekeeper's letters, as soon as they arrive; and Jones, the merchant prince, opens them, says "some mistake here," and hands them to his bookkeeper, who lays them aside; and Jones, the country storekeeper, has long ago gone home soiled in temper and disappointed in business matters through the non-receipt of his letters, before they again reach the post office—or the waste basket of his namesake's bookkeeper.

4.—It is a melancholy but unquestionable fact, that a large number of boxes are rented in every large city by individuals who are called, in French, *chevaliers d'industrie*, and, in less classical English, "dead heats." It gives such an air of substantial respectability to their swindling advertisements in the illustrated weekly papers, and the swindling circulars they disseminate so liberally through the post office, to wind them up with directions to "Address Hooker & Steele, Box 5,000 New York Post Office"—besides being such a convenient mode of evading possible "domestic visits" from those troublesome policemen. And of course, if a hurried, (and what box clerk is not hurriedly) careless, or near-sighted box-clerk should happen to deliver a letter full of money, belonging to Higgins & Wiggins, the eminent silk importers, to Wiggins & Higgins, the equally "eminent" agents for that marvellous lottery where everybody is insured a prize of at least \$300, the latter honorable gentlemen would have no peace until they had retrieved it to the rightful owners.

5.—The disappearance of an entire box-full of letters which were never called for by the boxholder or his employees, is a circumstance by no means unknown in large offices. Adroit thieves, who take the pains to "post themselves" properly, and take advantage of a favorable opportunity, have thus and again succeeded in obtaining the valuable letters of others for days and weeks in succession. The temptation is great and the risk comparatively small; and though some are detected, I should not be surprised if many more escape even suspicion.

I might perform upon this theme as many voluminous as were ever tortured out of the "Last Jose of Summer," but to every one at all acquainted with the subject, they will readily suggest themselves. I am sure that the facts are as I have stated them, and I do not believe they can ever be altered without doing away entirely with the box system in large cities: I do believe that the evils I have mentioned can be cured by the establishment of an efficient carrier system, by a law or regulation that the Post Office Department will not undertake to deliver letters, or make efforts to trace them if missing when intended for cities where the carrier system is established, unless plainly addressed to street and number, or plainly marked "To be called for"—giving a year's notice of the intention to enforce this rule before putting it in operation—which year might be profitably spent in organizing and drilling the increased force of carriers the plan would render necessary, and in improving the force at present employed.

I am quite sure that this proposition will be opposed by all the boxholders who do not stop to consider it thoroughly, and an equally sure that it will be favored by all (honest ones) who do; but in writing this, I did not so much consider the plan with reference to their wishes as with reference to their true interests—and mainly as a measure of self-defence on the part of the Post Office Department. Yours, T. E.

Singular Post Office Fraud.

We copy from an English paper the following account of a recent bold and ingenious fraud practiced there:

FORGED POST OFFICE ORDERS.—James Henry Wilson, aged 41, hatter, was charged upon several indictments with uttering forged £10 post office orders. On the 12th May, a man drove up to the district post office at Nether Stowey, Somersetshire, with a horse and chaise, and he announced himself in a pompous and authoritative manner to be a post office inspector, sent down by the Postmaster General to make inquiries into certain alleged irregularities in the establishment. He then seemed to have overhauled all the papers, and made minute inquiries relating to the money order business of the office, and at length he told the postmaster that he had too many money order forms, and that as a fresh form was about to be issued he should take away some of the forms, and he obtained possession of a hundred of these forms, and at the same time stamped them with the office stamp, for the purpose, he said, of denoting the day on which the transaction took place. The postmaster seemed to have quite deceived by the manner in which the man conducted himself; and he drove off with the money orders, when he was taken into custody by Huntcock, one of the City police, he made use of the expression that he had been made a "mug" of, meaning a dup of others; and as he was being conveyed to Bow Street Police Court, he said he "would take ten years for the job without going a step farther." The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the Recorder observing that he appeared to have anticipated his sentence, ordered him to be kept in penal servitude for ten years.

WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN? We find the two following items in regard to long-delayed letters among our exchanges:

A package of letters, evidently in the original wrapper, was received at the post office in this village on Thursday, the 13th, which was mailed at Ashburton, Va., on the 24th of May, 1844, having been over twenty-one years in traversing the distance of about one hundred miles. The letters, of which there were three in the package, were accompanied, by a post-bill, signed by Timothy F. Redfield, P. M., and were addressed, one to Norman Williams, Esq., one to Hon. Basil Tierce and one to Haskell & Palmes. The several letters were of considerable importance, and there is of course no means of knowing how much annoyance their non-receipt occasioned. The package does not bear evidence of having traveled much, and the supposition is that it has been all this time concealed, by accident, in a corner of some post office, and has been brought to light by a recent "house cleaning," and deposited in the mail without a suspicion of its antiquity. This heats all the misarrangements of mail matter of which we have any account.—*Woodstock, Vt., Sentinel.*

In March last, a number of the old-fashioned worn-out mail pouches, from some of the Western post offices, were received at the Washington post office. In one of them a letter was found post-marked "Vandalia, Illinois, March 2d, 1836." It contained information in regard to a lawsuit before "a justice," upon which an appeal had been taken, requiring "twenty days' notice," and came to light twenty-nine years and twenty-three days after it was mailed, having been carried about all the time for ten cents.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY. The curtain has fallen on the drama of "the confederacy," and that glorious institution is "played out." That eminent and enlightened citizen, J. Davis, Esq., whose scrupulous conscience has ornamented the Confederate States Stamps for the last four years, is at present enjoying the hospitality of the United States in one of the casemates of Fortress Monroe, there to ponder over his misspent life and the mutability of human renown; while in the distance, grand, gloomy and penitential, the apple tree of aid renown lifts its portentous branches to the sky, and a voice cries to the arch traitor "even as ye have sown so shall ye reap." The Confederate Stamps are obsolete, and their paternal ancestor will soon be obsolete also. In Richmond a Confederate \$3,000 bond is worth five cents; will some mathematician favor us, *pro rata*, with the value of the Confederate two cent stamp? We pause for a reply.—*Stamp Collector's Record.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

We publish below several letters from postmasters, giving their views on various postal subjects, and we shall be glad to receive others from similar sources for publication. We think it likely that great good may result from such an interchange of ideas among postmasters, and we propose hereafter to publish in every number of this paper such suggestions as may occur to postmasters and others connected with the postal service in the course of their official duties. We invite all who think they can write any thing which, if published, would tend to the improvement of the service, promote the convenience of postmasters and clerks, or facilitate the despatch of post office business, to write to us on the subject, in order that their light may not be hidden under a bushel, but shine in these columns for the benefit of their official brethren. It will be understood that we do not, by publishing these communications, endorse all that our correspondents may have to say; but our object is to furnish a medium whereby "post office folks" may compare notes and ideas, and discuss plans and propositions freely. And if those postmasters who take an interest in the welfare and efficiency of the service will avail themselves of this medium, it will be strange indeed if good does not result.

Collecting Newspaper Postage.

O—, ILL., July 20, 1865.

Editor U. S. Mail:—In response to your Michigan correspondent, who, in the July number of the *Mail*, gave vent to his pent-up thoughts upon the collection of newspaper postage, &c., and who wants to hear from others on that subject, I would say that I fully agree with his article as far as the same relates to the prepayment of newspaper postage by the publishers. But while that remains unaccomplished, instead of his new forms of blanks for newspaper accounts, I would suggest that the Postmaster General issue an order to the effect that all payments for newspaper postage and box rents shall be transacted by the use of postage stamps; that is to say, the postmaster shall collect the postage, quarterly or yearly in advance, as heretofore on publications to regular subscribers; but instead of keeping an account of the money, he shall put on the first copy delivered stamps equal to the amount paid for—the same course to be pursued in regard to box rents, generally, stamps attached to the boxes equal to the amount of rent paid in advance, the supply of newsletters, unpaid transient printed matter received, and all other matter received on which postage is due, and which is not billed, shall be treated the same way; no account to be kept of postage on printed matter or box rents, being deducted with it; for I found that one-half (nearly) of the postmaster's account of the postmaster and the Department.

It would, however, be necessary to keep a record, showing the expirations of the terms paid for in advance, both of regular subscribers to newspapers and boxholders. In keeping such, I find the following the most convenient and accurate: whenever I collect any postage or box rent in advance, I make a memorandum of it on a small piece of paper, showing the date, the name of subscriber or boxholder, the publication or number of box, and the date of the expiration of the term; I then place the same on file by stringing it on a wire; each day I take from the bottom of the file all the bills bearing date three months previous, and destroy such bills as then expire, and those which quarters, I pay in advance for one or more quarters, I again place on the top of the file; on the 20th of July I take from the bottom the bills placed there on the 20th of April. Suppose I find one which reads "Jno. Smith, Dr. Box No. 123, to July 20, 1865," I notify him that his box is run out, and if he don't renew, the box is discontinued. Suppose again I find one which reads "Geo. Brown, Cr. by Semi N. Y. *Tribune* to April 20, 1866," which I again place on the top, to be repeated January 20, 1866.

A book can be made to answer the same purpose. L. R—, P. M.

H—, MASS., July, 1865.

My principal object in addressing you at this time, is to endorse what the Michigan postmaster communicated, and was published in the last number of the *United States Mail*. I agree with him, and I presume all postmasters will, that the most annoying and vexing part of the business, is the collection of pamphlet and newspaper postage. The complaints he speaks of are constantly hearing. Many subscribers living at a distance receive their papers from mail carriers on the routes, and when a new postmaster begins, the postage being unpaid, no paper is received, then the postmaster is a mean man, afraid to trust, &c.

I like the plan suggested of pre-payment, and wish it could be adopted.

Another matter I wish could be remedied—that is, the practice of publishers sending their papers to non-subscribers without pre-paying postage. They are constantly sending their papers to such addresses as they can find, and the result is, postage must be charged at the office received, and many are refused, consequently are not taken from the office. A few days since a paper came to the office from a publisher to a firm (who are not subscribers) which had sent him a notice to advertise, containing the advertisement marked, also the bill for advertising without pre-paying the postage. I accordingly charged and had the good luck to collect letter postage on the paper. If editors and publishers do not understand postal laws better, what shall we say of the people generally?

For reasons like the above, I wish every newspaper and periodical had to be prepaid. The Department would receive more money and save the postmaster many scoldings and much trouble. S. T. L.

P. O. L—, N. Y., July, 1865.

Editor U. S. Mail:—I have read with much interest the views of B—, P. M. at S—, Mich., and would like to suggest a few points to

him wherein I think his plan of collecting newspaper postage in advance will not work. I, like B—, have had much experience in the postal business, running through fourteen years, and, like him, have had my notions. The same plan he proposes has often been studied by me, and often rejected because of its infeasibility. I have come to the conclusion that it is best to "let well enough alone."

But for a few points of B—'s argument. Does he not know that the most of the papers and periodicals that are circulated by the mails originate at the largest class of offices? The circulation of the country press is limited, and that mostly to the immediate vicinity of the place of publication, whereas the city press circulation is numbered by millions. Now let B— suppose that the labor of collecting that postage be transferred from the office of delivery to the one where the matter originates, and he will see that the already powerful strain upon the clerical forces and abilities of the large offices will receive such an additional strain as to cause the Department an additional outlay of money to meet the new demands, greater than it now costs in the shape of commissions (salary) to collect it, while the smaller offices will not have work enough to keep the clerks out of mischief.

If the law should be changed to compel prepayment by publishers, there would aggregate a greater loss of revenue than occurs under the present system, because there would arise so great an incentive to dishonesty. Publishers could, and in many cases, would make a false report for the first issue coming out in a quarter; and it could not be expected, nay, it would be impossible, for the officials at large offices to detect the fraud in more than one half of the cases.

Then, again—does not B— know that the salary he receives is partly based upon the collection of newspaper postage at his office? Yes. Very well then. Suppose that amount be deducted from the revenue of his office, will not his salary in like proportion decrease? I have my doubts whether the thousands of postmasters who are scattered broadcast over this great country, and whose total annual receipts at their offices are insufficient to pay the actual expense of their offices, will look upon B— as a benefactor of the post office public.

B— seems to think that the collections of newspaper postage in advance, like letter postage, will remove all cause of complaint, and prove a "balm of Gilead," solely because he would be saved the trouble of collection. Will he not be candid enough to confess that there is any quantity of complaint concerning letters, and the postage on those must be paid in advance. I tell him that where a man is bound to find fault, that he will pour it upon the heads of the officials, and find *them* the contrary notwithstanding. Will the simple fact of prepayment cause all complaint to cease? For my part, I do not so understand it.

B— also proposes a new form of blank upon which to keep the newspaper record. I would like to inform him that I tried the very same plan over ten years ago, and became disgusted with it; for I found that one-half (nearly) of the people would change their papers as often as their subscription would allow—it would not work—too much labor lost. The plan might work in small offices where the total newspaper postage aggregates annually to twenty or twenty-five dollars, but at offices where it amounts to hundreds—where! The labor of recording the names of each subscriber to each and every paper, would be greater than all the other business of an office combined—requires too much scratching and erasing. Simplicity is the very perfection of all that is good. The present form is simple, therefore it is good.

I would like to take up J. H. E., of S—, N. Y., and handle his plan to "dispose of single letters" but the length of this will forbid. I will do so, however, at another time if the Editor has no objections. Meanwhile, I would advise no postmaster to "adopt" the plan. A.

Editor U. S. Mail:—I cordially agree with your correspondent of last month who advocates the prepayment of all printed matter at the office of mailing, including papers and magazines sent by publishers to regular subscribers; and if a law could be passed compelling this, the Department would soon be much richer and postmasters much happier. For one, I shall give our member of Congress no peace on the subject, and I advise all postmasters to bore their Congressional friends persistently until they are passed such a law. The only ones who will oppose it are some of the big city publishers, and I do not think their convenience ought to take precedence of everybody's else. Keep the hall rolling, brothers postmaster, and hammer away at your members of Congress. M. M. M.

Letter Addresses.

Now, don't delay a moment, or you will be too late, but haste you, with all proper speed, to New York Empire State.

Where you will find a handsome town—it ought to be a city—

And, would have been, had not a few old fogies been so "gritty."

Its name is called Lockport, and its founded on the rocks.

And if you have the time to spare, don't fail to see the Locks;

(Or, should you chance to miss the train, just take an extra hour)

And you'll have time to see the great Hydraulic water-power.)

Of famous old NIAGARA, it is the COUNTY seat, a county, I suppose you know, that's very hard to beat.

But during all this time don't forget about this letter. But take especial care of it—I'll bet my boots you'd better!

And turn your steps unto the house, at No. 1 Pine Street.

And inquire for James P. Simpson, whom, I hope, you sure will meet;

For he's as clever & fellow as any in the town, and in "showing round" a friend, can do it up "extremely" brown.

And now, my dear old Uncle Sam, don't fail to do this right,

And should you try old "Harry's" ale, be sure and not get light,

For if you should, 'tis very like that you might see the day,

Perhaps get sacked, that is, discharged, with loss of all back pay.

So, Uncle, dear, take my advice, though it be rather plain,

And drink but once or twice, at most, and then take the next train.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1850. By J. HOLBROOK. J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK AUGUST, 1865.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All papers stopped at the expiration of the term of subscription, unless a new subscription is received.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR:—I consider the U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General: Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the Office as may be of general importance or interest as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington Oct. 13, 1864.

DEAR SIR:—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the "United States Mail" and Post Office Assistant, as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal operations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper.

Postage to Japan, by French Mail.

We are requested to state, that notice has been given by the Post Office Department of France, of the establishment of a line of French Mail Packets between Shanghai and Yokohama.

The single rate of letter postage, by French mail, from the United States to Japan, will hereafter be as follows, viz:

For letters addressed to Yokohama 30 cents, per single rate of 1 ounce or under prepayment optional.

For letters addressed to other cities and places in Japan, beyond Yokohama, the same postage charge of 30 cents per single rate to Yokohama must be prepaid, and such letters should bear upon the address the words "Via Yokohama."

Our Table of Foreign Postage is corrected in accordance with the above.

"ROBERT" LETTERS.—Postmasters and clerks (at both large and small offices) should be careful not to retain letters bearing a request for their return to the writers if not called for within a specified time, beyond the expiration of that time, but to return them promptly as requested.

UNCALLED-FOR OFFICIAL LETTERS.—Some postmasters are in the habit of returning to the Dead Letter Office such official letters from the various Departments and public offices at Washington as have remained uncalled-for for thirty days, or when the persons addressed are dead or have removed. This should never be done.

DEATH OF MAJOR R. K. SMITH.—We are grieved to be obliged to record the death of the above-named estimable gentleman who has for several years filled the position of Principal Clerk of the Inspection Division of the Contract Office, Post Office Department, Washington.

Registered Letters, Once More.

We regret to observe that there is still great reason to complain of carelessness or ignorance on the part of some postmasters in regard to the proper mailing of registered letters, more particularly those which are sent "for distribution."

The neglect of the above rules is apt to lead to great confusion and trouble at Distributing offices with regard to the registered letters, and greatly increases the difficulty of tracing them when reported as missing.

The London Post Office.

To those grumblers at "post office mismanagement," on this side of the water, who so frequently and confidently point to the London post office as a pattern of perfection, we would recommend for perusal the following paragraph, which we cut from a late London paper.

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ANONYMOUS LETTERS.—Special Agents of the Department, a part of whose duty consists in detecting the cause of deceptions upon the mails, are sometimes annoyed by the receipt of anonymous communications, conveying dark hints, or positive statements, respecting the dishonesty of certain post office officials.

Should he happen to have no more than fifty single letters in one mail, fully one-half would be minus the counties. And I would like to know if the labor of searching the Directory would be less than the proper plan of wrapping.

UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT.—The railroad car containing the entire South mail, due at New York on the morning of the 24th ult., fell overboard from the Jersey City ferry bridge through some carelessness or misunderstanding on the part of those having it in charge.

REAPPOINTMENTS.—We notice with great pleasure the announcement of the renewal of the commissions of a large number of our postmasters who have already served their four years, and may now be considered as veterans in the postal service.

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ROBERT LETTERS.—Postmasters and clerks (at both large and small offices) should be careful not to retain letters bearing a request for their return to the writers if not called for within a specified time, beyond the expiration of that time, but to return them promptly as requested.

UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT.—The railroad car containing the entire South mail, due at New York on the morning of the 24th ult., fell overboard from the Jersey City ferry bridge through some carelessness or misunderstanding on the part of those having it in charge.

REAPPOINTMENTS.—We notice with great pleasure the announcement of the renewal of the commissions of a large number of our postmasters who have already served their four years, and may now be considered as veterans in the postal service.

Taxes on Salaries.

A question that has puzzled some postmasters when making the deduction for taxes required by law in paying the salaries of their clerks, is whether, after the deduction of \$600, any further deduction on account of house rent, &c., should or could be made.

THE LAWSUIT.

Mr. A. had been a sworn deputy 25 years ago, when the elder A. was postmaster at B. Since that time, as the years rolled on, four changes had been made; he was called in on special occasions to help the acting officials.

Mr. G. was a married man and in the army, leaving his wife at home. But—leaving his wife behind him, to whom he addressed letters under the name of "Fanny H.," an assumed name.

COMMUNICATIONS.

"Disposing" of Single Letters.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Your correspondent, J. H. E., of S. N. Y., tells us, in the June number of the Mail, that a plan has been adopted, by which he disposes of single letters.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Routing, up, &c.—J. M. C. B.—Kan.—After a careful examination of the Regulations, we can find none allowing a postmaster, who "has been roused up two or three times a week," increased compensation on that account.

Double Rates of Postage.—H. M. G. L.—Ind.—Part-paid matter reaching your office for delivery, should not be charged with double rates.

Dating "Return Bills."—J. C. D.—N. Y.—In sending a return bill of a registered letter sent in previous mail, you should date the return bill with the same date on which the registered letter to which it refers, left your office.

Old Newspapers, Circulars, &c.—E. P. F. R.—Mo.—The accumulated old papers, circulars, &c., may be sold and the proceeds credited to the Department.

Forwarding Franked Matter.—P. M. A.—Ohio.—Mail matter properly franked can be forwarded, if the party addressed has removed, without charge.

Re-forwarded Letters.—B. G. C. S.—Ind.—In the case of a letter forwarded to A. from B, and by A. again forwarded to C, the postmaster at C, (if it is a single rate letter) collects six cents postage on delivery.

Wrapping.—G. A. H. S.—Pa.—Offices supplied in whole or in part by railway post offices, (that is, the new "traveling post office" cars) are instructed not to wrap packages—not those supplied by the ordinary railroad service.

Misdirecting Letters.—P. S. R.—Mich.—We know of no way of preventing the business men of Detroit from directing letters to your office which they intend for another of similar name.

Entering Delayed Unpaid Matter.—S. G. R. S.—Ky.—When you receive several packages of different dates on the same day, which have been delayed on your account, you should enter the unpaid matter on your account of mails received, and date the entry on the day they were actually received, not the day they would have been received had they not been delayed.

Weight of Mails.—P. M. C.—Ills.—The mail carrier is mistaken. The weight of his mail cannot be greater than the law compels him to carry, inasmuch as the law does not limit the weight.

Enclosures in Foreign Papers.—C. W. R. N.—O.—If a newspaper or other printed matter from a foreign country, enclosing silk handkerchiefs or other similar matter, reaches your office for delivery, you should charge the full rate of letter postage from that country on the whole package.

Free (and Easy) Delivery.—P. O. Clerk, W.—Cal.—A postmaster cannot deliver circulars, pamphlets, handbills, &c., through his office gratuitously, without a direct violation of law.

Distributing Circulars.—R. M. K. G.—Mass.—A postmaster who receives a package containing unpaid circulars, by mail, accompanied by a request that he will "oblige by delivering them to callers" at his office, should understand that he cannot do so until the postage at regular circular rates is pre-paid thereon by stamps.

Postage on Papers from Canada.—Subscriber, S.—Cal.—A newspaper mailed in Canada and addressed to an office in the United States, cannot be delivered until the United States postage (which cannot be pre-paid in Canada, unless by U. S. postage stamps left uncanceled till arrival at destination) is paid.

Underpaid Matter.—W. C. B. W.—N. Y.—If a letter reach your office for delivery, on which the postage is only part paid, you should collect the unpaid postage before delivering it, although it may not be charged on the letter nor on the post bill, by the postmaster at the mailing office.

Letters not Postmarked.—P. O. Clerk, S.—Cal.—A letter arriving at or passing through your office, from another office, without a post-mark, should not receive the post-mark of your office. The stamp should be cancelled.

Blanks.—J. R. W.—N. J.—You are not obliged to furnish the neighboring postmasters with the blanks for their quarterly returns.

Yearly Prepaid Postage.—G. W. H. X.—Ind.—When a subscriber to a newspaper pays the postage a year in advance, the whole amount should be charged against yourself in that quarter's accounts, and no further entry need be made of that transaction.

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only all about postal laws but all other laws; not only where all the post offices are, but where all the letters are that have been deposited in them; and why letters that are expected, do not come!

And what a set of rascals they are, too! It does seem as if "Old Buck" and "Old Ace" must have raked the country to find the meanest men for the office—if we are to take outside talk for it; and "what everybody says must be true."

But seriously—I have now been A. P. M. less than half a year; and my experience is, that the good angel Gabriel should come down to fill the position of postmaster, he could not give satisfaction. If any one thinks different, let him turn angel awhile and try it.

But excuse my prolixity. I set out with the intention of giving reports of some cases peculiar to our business—and here is case No. 1.

Mr. A. had been a sworn deputy 25 years ago, when the elder A. was postmaster at B. Since that time, as the years rolled on, four changes had been made; he was called in on special occasions to help the acting officials. Last winter, for a time, he was so assisting, when a Mr. C. called to send some money to D. at E. Not wishing to go to the expense of registering, he was asked to certify to the fact. He took a pen and wrote: "Sent \$— for C. to D. at E." (Signed, with date.) A. In due time it transpired that C. was called on for the money, and the result was that suit was brought against A. for the amount. It was tried before a Justice of the Peace, and subsequently in the higher court; but as I desire your opinion, or that of some of your readers, on the merits of the case, I shall withhold the verdict for the present—and pass to

Case No. 2. Mrs. F. was a widow with grown children. She took it into her head, as widows are apt to do, to marry—and did marry, a widower; first taking the precaution to settle her property where she could control it. In process of time she died, leaving a married daughter her executor. The husband and the executor each demanded of the postmaster the letters to the address of the deceased. The peculiarity of the case is only this: the legal question involved—To whom should the postmaster deliver the letters?

Mr. G. was a married man and in the army, leaving his wife at home. But—leaving his wife behind him, to whom he addressed letters under the name of "Fanny H.," an assumed name. The fact of such narrow being at the post office leaked out. The father of Fanny and the wife of G. both demanded them. To whom should they have been delivered? [To neither—but sent to the Dead Letter Office as "fictitious."—Ed. MAIL.]

But it's time to cork up, Mr. Editor. If this "sample" could be anywise "toothsome," I may "draw the cork" again some day. Till then, adieu! Yours, truly, T. G.

[For the U. S. Mail.] Another Nuisance.

P. O., —, July, 1865. Some time ago one of your correspondents eloquently set forth the annoyance and inconvenience to which he and other post office clerks are subjected by the use (particularly by ladies) of a certain new fangled contrivance in the shape of those little narrow envelopes which have recently come into fashion, pointing out their liability to be overlooked in a package of ordinary sized letters when placed in the mail. I have another complaint of a similar nature to bring to your attention—though I cannot charge upon the ladies any larger share of blame in the matter than is due to those of the sterner sex.

I allude to those hideous red envelopes, which some idiot has invented for the exclusive use of those of equally feeble intellect, and which are now passing through the mails in large numbers. Can you inform me, sir, what possible object people can have in placing such things in the mail, except that of vexing the souls and decipher the superscriptions upon them? Have you the clerks in large offices so unmercifully arduous task to sort,

UNITED STATES MAIL.

Money Order Offices.—P. O. Clerk, W. B. ... The money order system will no doubt be further extended as early as a day as the spirit may deem it proper and judicious to do so. We cannot predict just when this will be.

Mixed Quantities.—H. E. P. ... A package of leather straps and printed hand-bills, cards or circulars, tied up together, cannot go in the mail at newspaper rates, but must be charged letter postage.

Post-Bills and Registered Letters.—H. H. B. S. ... We cannot find space to furnish you with full instructions for the proper registration and forwarding of letters, as you request, but must refer you to the official regulations on the subject, which you should carefully study. The common post-bill with registered matter is not sent in the same sealed envelope with the letters—the return registered letter receipt is so sent, and one must accompany each letter.

Letter Rates on Printed Matter.—W. P. D. C. ... If the person to whom a package of printed matter chargeable with letter rates (in consequence of enclosures in, or unlawful writing upon it) refuses to pay such postage, the package should be returned to the postmaster at the mailing office, unless postage is possible from the sender—see Sec. 127, Regulations of 1854. The fact that an old address remains on a re-mailed paper does not subject it to letter postage.

Franking Privilege.—P. M. S. ... A member of Congress whose term expired on the 4th of March last, is entitled to the franking privilege until the first Monday in next December.

Request Letters, &c.—Letters returned to writers by request, letters ordered to be forwarded, and part-paid letters, are all to be included under the head of unpaid in the monthly sheet of mails sent.

Mail Messenger Service.—P. M. F. ... If your mail is not sent by a steamboat under a contract for that service, it is the duty of the contractor to deliver the mail to and receive it from your office, if not over eighty rods from the landing. If over that distance, the delivery should be made by mail messenger. A postmaster cannot draw pay for that service. You had better address the Contract Office on this subject. We have not space to explain the reason why you are not required to send post-bills with unpaid matter; but you will of course follow the instructions of the Department.

Additional Boxes.—L. P. H. F. M. ... A postmaster cannot increase the number of boxes at his office and charge the expense of the same to the Department without special authority from the Postmaster General.

Delivering the Mail.—C. G. T. H. ... It is the duty of a mail carrier to deliver the mail at the post office—not at the outer gate of an enclosure surrounding it.

Furnishing Lists of Names.—P. M. S. ... The Maryland gentlemen who announce themselves as "agriculturists and importers of seeds," and who offer you a "handsome engraved picture" on condition of your forwarding them a "list of farmers who receive mail matter at your office" are undoubtedly swindlers, who desire by that means to procure the names of those whom they consider likely to become victims to some rascally bogus lottery or other injurious scheme of theirs. Refuse this and all similar requests, unless you wish to become a part to the cheating of your neighbors.

Miscellaneous Information.

Army Correspondence.—Letters from all soldiers in the army, below the rank of a commissioned officer, may be sent through the mails without any postpaid endorsement. Soldier's letters by a field or staff officer, or at detached posts, by the surgeon or chaplain) of the regiment from which they are sent. The same regulation applies to the navy and marine corps, the letter to be addressed to the commanding officer. In no case are the letters of commissioned officers entitled to this privilege. The postage due on such "soldier's letters" is to be collected at the office of delivery.

Prepaid letters for soldiers, addressed to places where their regiments have been stationed, but from which they have been removed, may be forwarded to the local post without extra charge. If a soldier or a naval letter arrives at any office unpaid, and yet is properly certified, no extra postage is to be charged—only the ordinary letter rates.

Clonings of Soldiers.—Articles of clothing, being manufactured of wool, cotton or linen, and comprised in a package not exceeding two pound weight, addressed to any non-commissioned officer or private serving in the army of the United States, may be transmitted in the mails of the United States at the rate of eight cents, but in no case, except for every four ounces or any fraction thereof, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe.

Mailing Soldiers' Letters.—In order to insure the prompt and certain delivery of letters and other mail matter, addressed to officers and soldiers serving in the army of the Potomac, or stationed near Washington, D. C., the Post Master General directs that postmasters in making up their mails, whether for Washington direct, or for distributing offices, shall place all army letters in packages by themselves, and plainly mark them "Army Letters," so that when such packages arrive in Washington, they may be taken at once to an apartment provided for their reception, without being opened with the mails for the city.

Dead Letters.

By the instructions under the postal laws, UNMAILABLE LETTERS are specified to be—Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes. Unpaid letters for foreign countries, on which prepayment is required by the regulations. Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination is not ascertainable. Letters misdirected to places where there are no post offices. Civilian's letters, (domestic) wholly unpaid.

Only such letters as are herein described are, when deposited in any post office, to be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office; all others must be dispatched to their destination, (or, if drop letters, delivered), charged with the amount of unpaid postage.

When unmailable letters are sent to the Dead Letter Office, the specific reason therefor must be endorsed upon the envelope of each. These instructions will be strictly followed at all post offices.

For more full instructions relating to dead letters, advertising letters, &c., examine carefully the 7th and 8th Sections of the Act of 3d March, 1853, and the instructions attached thereto, also, 1, Act of March 3, 1855.

Foreign Letters, &c.

RULE FOR RATING LETTERS TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c. The attention of postmasters is particularly called to the mode of rating postage upon letters exchanged in the mails between this country and the United Kingdom, which differs essentially from the United States domestic scale, (the weight of the packet or letter exceeds one ounce.

The scale of progressive postage for letters exchanged with the United Kingdom is as follows, viz.: One rate for a single letter not exceeding 1/2 oz. in weight. Two rates when over 1/2, but not exceeding 1 ounce. Four rates when over 1, but not exceeding 2 ounces. Six rates when over 2, but not exceeding 3 ounces; and so on, charging two additional rates for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

Thus, a letter to Great Britain, weighing 1/4 ounce, should be paid \$1.40, being chargeable as five ounces, or ten rates; but if \$2.16 (nine rates only) are paid, owing to an omission to count the fraction as a full ounce, it then goes unpaid, and the \$2.16 is lost to the writer of the letter. These letters (and

all other part paid letters to foreign countries) are treated as wholly unpaid, and the amount paid lost to the sender.

In no case should 3, 5 or 7 rates be collected upon a letter or packet addressed to the United Kingdom, the proper charges being either 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 rates, &c., according to weight.

Notwithstanding the explicit instructions of the Department on this subject, it is found that many postmasters are in the practice of charging postage upon letters and packets for the United Kingdom these directions notwithstanding, (by one rate for each half ounce or fraction of half an ounce &c.) and insufficient amounts of postage are frequently prepaid, which are entirely lost to the senders, as no account is taken of short payments of postage.

Letters to foreign countries, where prepayment of postage is compulsory, when insufficiently paid are sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be opened and returned to the writers, and are thereby delayed one or two mails, and, no doubt, in many cases, causing serious loss and annoyance to the writers.

REGISTERING FOREIGN LETTERS.—Letters can be registered in the United States for Great Britain and Ireland, for Germany, or any part of the German Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen, Hamburg or Prussian closed mail, and to Canada, as five cents— to Great Britain and Ireland, twenty cents. All registered letters must be prepaid in full to destination. See "Foreign Miscellanea," on fourth page of this paper, for full information in regard to rating all foreign letters.

Our Postal Convention with the United Kingdom, provides that each country shall levy and collect its own rates on newspapers, at the rate of 30 cents each, whether they are sent or received. Hence, newspapers received in this country from Great Britain come prepaid the British postage only, and to the United States must be particular, in all cases, to collect the United States charge of two cents on their delivery.

CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE.—Irregularities having arisen in respect to Canadian correspondence, the Department has directed that the following regulations be observed: Letters addressed to Canada must be mailed to a United States Exchange Office. Letters cannot be sent direct to Post Offices in Canada.

The postage on a single letter to and from Canada is 10 cents, prepaid, and to be observed. If postage must be prepaid or none. Prepaid letters are not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

A postmaster may frank a letter to Canada the same as to any point in the United States; but it is optional for the Canadian P. O. Department to deliver such letter free, or charge full postage on it, at its discretion.

COLLECTIONS IN COIN.—In pursuance of the provisions of a resolution of Congress, approved March 3, 1853, all postages due on unpaid letters received from foreign countries in the mails detached to this country from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen, or Belgium, are collected in gold or silver coin. Should, however, payment of such postage, and of the premium on it on its arrival at U. S. Exchange Offices, and if charged in the post-bills, hence, when coin is collected at the office of delivery, the difference should be entered in the account of Mails Received as an overcharge.

Above applies exclusively to the mails received from the countries mentioned. On out-going letters the former regulations remain unchanged, and, when prepaid, the regular rates (in currency) only are to be collected.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of July, 1855:

ESTABLISHED.

Post Office.	County.	State.	Route.
Andrew Johnson,	Martin,	Min.	13,373
Abbeville,	Abbeville,	S. C.	13,640
Bernalillo,	Santa Anna,	N. Mex.	14,458
"Hogsville,	Roanoke,	W. Va.	4,216
"Brunet,	Wayne,	Mo.	10,971
"Shelby,	Shelby,	Ky.	9,550
"Cristobalburg,	Jefferson,	Kan.	14,777
"Cook's Ford,	Howard,	Mo.	3,212
"Dayton,	Henry,	Ind.	12,057
"Dan Webster,	Columbia,	Mo.	13,727
"Doylstown,	Du Bois,	Pa.	16,000
"East Troy Lake,	Walworth,	Wis.	13,024
"Eler's Mill,	Batler,	Ky.	9,627
"Fort Collins,	Larimer,	Col.	14,280
"Johnston,	Johnson,	Ill.	10,690
"Forsyth,	Macou,	Ill.	11,512
"Fredonia,	Williamson,	Mo.	11,698
"Glendale,	Hardin,	Ky.	9,504
"Granby,	Newton,	Ind.	10,720
"High Rock,	Davies,	Ind.	12,112
"Johnsonville,	Hampshire,	Tenn.	10,907
"Locktown,	Hunterdon,	N. J.	2,655
"Lindonville,	Pulaski,	Ky.	9,509
"Linwood,	Lincoln,	Mo.	13,640
"Lynch,	Loudon,	Va.	4,190
"Living Springs,	Arapahoe,	Col.	14,260
"Larimer Mills,	Sarpy,	Neb.	14,092
"Morgantown,	Morgan,	Mo.	10,416
"Mill Spring,	Jefferson,	Tenn.	10,692
"Mitchellville,	Prince George's,	Md.	3,252
"North Branch,	Isanti,	Minn.	13,320
"Oak Springs,	Anoka,	Pa.	15,098
"Pikeville,	Wayne,	Mo.	9,730
"Pittsburg,	Hickory,	Mo.	2,677
"Rockhouse Prairie,	Buchanan,	Ill.	10,627
"Sauganaw Station,	Macou,	Ill.	11,519
"Sawnee Prairie,	Polk,	Mo.	10,627
"St. Huberts,	Le Seuer,	Minn.	13,650
"Springfield,	Hampshire,	W. Va.	4,173
"Seventy-six,	Clinton,	Ky.	9,630
"Springdale,	Allen,	Mo.	10,627
"St. Croixville,	Jasper,	Mo.	10,725
"Soda Bar,	Palo Alto,	Iowa,	11,160
"Tucson,	Arizona,	Ariz.	14,474
"Tuba,	Washington,	Mo.	14,074
"Tulsa,	Wagon Wheel,	Okla.	18,280
"Taylor's Station,	Franklin,	Wash.	9,904
"Ulenahay,	Island,	Wash.	15,278
"Walnut Springs,	Grayson,	Ky.	Special
"Wagon Wheel,	Texas,	Tex.	Special
"Woodville,	Wasca,	Minn.	13,652

* Re-established.

DISCONTINUED.

In the annexed List will be found added, the names of the nearest Post Offices, to which matter for those having been discontinued, should be sent.

Name.	County and State.	Nearest Office.
Algondones,	Santa Anna, N. Mex.	Santa Fe.
Archer,	Richardson, Neb.	Fall City.
Arctic,	De Kall, Ind.	Jarvis.
Arby,	Frederick, Md.	Fredrick.
Baldwinville,	Oldham, Ky.	Orange.
Big Creek,	Staben, N. Y.	Hornellsville.
Birch Run,	Sagamaw, Mich.	Deer Lick.
Bony Hill,	Steuben, N. Y.	N. Cameron.
Bower Bank,	Piscataway, Me.	Sebec.
Chicocteeville,	Accomack, Va.	Ac's k (clt)
Cartersville,	Oswego, N. Y.	Amboy Cent.
East Liberty,	Allen, Ind.	Monroeville.
East Creek,	Cattaraugus, N. Y.	E. Randolph.
Five Corners,	Franklin, Pa.	Franklin.
Grant,	Lake, Ill.	Waukegan.
Hannaburville,	Yucker, W. Va.	St. George.
Hamilton,	Butte, Cal.	Oroville.
Jackson,	Washington, N. Y.	Canadigua.
Kearneyville,	Wyoming, Pa.	Russell Hill.
Lone Star,	Grant, Wis.	Fennimore.
Moroz,	Maskingham, Ohio,	Pitman.
Massey's + Roads,	Kent, Md.	Millington.
Middle Spring,	Allen, Ohio,	Allen.
Newport,	Johnson, Iowa,	Iowa City.
North Adams,	Jefferson, N. J.	Sauilville.
North Adams,	Mercer, N. Y.	Princeton.
Pewabic,	Bradford, Mich.	Rockland.
Five Corners,	South-west,	Rockland.
St. John's,	Madison, Pa.	Orent's Crk.
Slave Hill,	Cass, Mich.	Williams'v.
Shave Hill,	Orange, N. Y.	Ridgebury.
Woodville,	McCracken, Ky.	McCracken.
White Cloud,	Nodaway, Mo.	Maryville.

NAMES CHANGED.

Hitebeeksville, lat. field, Conn., to Riverlora. Myssville, Aroostook, Me., to East Myssville. Jifford Centre, Hudson, Ohio, to Flat. Ridgeville, Frederick, Md., to Mt. Airy. Carroll Co. Penn. Ironk, Shenandoah, Va., to Mount-town. Wesley, Schuyler, Mo., to Clifton.

Presidential Appointments.

Amherst, Hampshire, Mass., J. L. Skinner. Atlanta, Fulton, Ga., Thos. G. Simms. Columbus, Hickman, Ky., James M. Moore. Chattanooga, Hamilton, Tenn., Elbert A. James. Chattahoochee, Humboldt, N. C., Geo. Lawder. Frederickburgh, Spotsylvania, Va., Chas. Williams. Greenburgh, Decatur, Ind., Marie D. Tackett. Hubbard, Hudson, N. J., Gordon Farmer. Huntsville, Madison, Ala., Henry Barham. Ironton, Iron, Mo., Fritz J. Jones. Minersville, Schuylkill, Pa., Mrs. Anna J. Pritchard. Mendota, La Salle, Ill., David A. Cook. Macoma, McDonough, Ill., James K. Magie. Macon, Bibb, Ga., J. H. R. Washington. Milledgeville, Baldwin, Ga., Thomas M. Gumpston. Montgomery, Montgomery, Ala., W. J. Fish. Oswego, Oswego, N. Y., Aaron J. Cowles. Painesville, Lake, Ohio, Seth Marshall. Painesville, Wayne, N. Y., Charles W. Smith. Peru, Peru, Pa., John H. Wells. Peru, Miami, Ind., James H. Pettey. Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, E. G. Randall. Ray's Knob, Iron, Mo., Pauline Schmitz. Richmond, Richmond, Va., John L. Lockett. Richmond, Henrico, Va., Alexander Shurr. Raleigh, Wake, N. C., J. P. H. Russ. Springfield, Sangamon, Ill., P. Wright. Westfield, Hampden, Mass., Edwin B. Smith. Westfield, Campbell, Tenn., John W. Smith. Washington, Washington, Pa., Wm. C. Wiley. Washington, Beaufort, N. C., Wm. Ehorn. Winona, Winona, Minn., Cornelius T. Hook.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Bellefonte, Richland, Ohio, Miss Eliza A. Bell. Chattanooga, La Plata, Miss Isabella W. Hill. Chesapeake, Kent, Miss Mary A. Brown. Edinburg, Shenandoah, Va., Miss E. C. Liggett. Grape Grove, Greene, Ohio, Miss Mary Rittenour. Holmesburg, Philadelphia, Pa., Mrs. Maria G. Glenn. Jacksonport, Madison, Miss, Mrs. Susie Cary. Kankakee, Ill., Mrs. Ann Phelps. Mount Zion, Oxford, Me., Mrs. Ursula F. Abbott. Minersville, Schuylkill, Pa., Mrs. Anna J. Pritchard. Moline, Allegany, Mich., Mrs. Mary A. Orton. Painesville, Wayne, N. Y., Mrs. John L. Lockett. Palmyra, Portage, Ohio, Miss Minerva Tuttle. Springfield, Hampshire, W. Va., Mrs. Marie Abernathy. Santa Anna, De Witt, Ill., Mrs. Mary A. Norris. Troy, Walworth, Wis., Mrs. Nancy S. McElberry.

Re-opened.

Alexandria, De Kalb, Tenn., James Turner. Ashland City, Cheatham, Tenn., Willis Saunders. Brownsville, Haywood, Tenn., John Clifton. Brandon, Rankin, Miss., Henry I. Reeves. Beaufort, Beaufort, N. C., David W. Whitesides. Bolivar, Hardeman, Tenn., Rufus S. Hardy. Columbus, Lowndes, Miss., Durant H. Davis. Como, Henry, Tenn., John McFarland. Cape Girardeau, St. Francois, Mo., James C. Waddell. Charlestonville, Albemarle, Va., Henry Massie. Dresden, Jefferson, Tenn., James A. Firstwood. Dandridge, Weakley, Tenn., Wm. Harris, Jr. Dover, Stewart, Tenn., G. M. Stewart. Edinburg, Campbell, Tenn., John M. Hisey. Fayetteville, Lincoln, Tenn., Wm. French. Fayetteville, Jefferson, Miss., Geo. McMarshall. Fosterville, Rutherford, Tenn., A. M. McKelvey. Fort Smith, Washington, Ark., Geo. W. Walker. Greenville, Prince Edward, Va., Joel L. Walker. Farmville, Washington, Miss., Kendrick R. Wilson. Graham, Alleghany, N. C., W. C. Faucey. Gordonsville, Orange, Va., S. G. Aikens. Harpersville, Hamilton, Geo., Geo. W. Walker. Hartsville, Sumner, Tenn., James Harlan. Jacksonborough, Campbell, Tenn., Miss Sue Cary. Kenick Depot, Albemarle, Va., L. Bremond. Lebanon, Wilson, Tenn., Wm. C. Taylor. Lovellville, Loudon, Va., Luther W. Slater. Lawrenceburg, Lawrence, Tenn., W. P. H. Turner. Lexington, Lexington, Va., Geo. W. Walker. Mount Jackson, Shenandoah, Va., Reuben A. Bird. Mayville, Blount, Tenn., T. M. Hood. Manchester, Cocke, Tenn., R. E. Lasseter. Magnolia, Pike, Miss., Henry Gottz. Madisonville, Madison, Tenn., James C. Waddell. McMinnville, Warren, Tenn., Raleigh Martin. Meriden, Landerdale, Miss., R. G. Row. Marble Hill, Chesterfield, Tenn., John J. Wilson. Middleburg, Hamilton, N. C., John Melton. Manchester, Chesterfield, Va., Wm. Geo. Marlette. Middleburg, Loudon, Va., Geo. H. Hutchinson. Newmarket, Shenandoah, Va., Frederick Keller. New Hill, Cocke, Tenn., H. Burr. New Hill, Wake, N. C., Robert M. Brown. New Light, Wake, N. C., H. B. Wilson. Newtown Steubenville, Frederick, Va., S. C. Hill. New Haven, Mason, Va., Andrew J. Hill. Oxford, Oxford, Tenn., James L. Kelly. Oak Grove, Jefferson, Tenn., John M. Elliott. Pax Christian, Harrison, Miss., H. A. Lee. Parrottsville, Cocke, Tenn., Samuel P. Pratt. Phelps's Cross Roads, Grainger, Tenn., John A. McKinney. Quarryville, Hawkins, Tenn., Andrew Galbraith. Radcliff, Grainger, Tenn., M. Galbraith. Marysville, Hampshire, W. Va., Richard A. Marshall. Rapidan Station, Greene, Tenn., John Peyton. Strasburg, Shenandoah, Va., Philip A. Machie. Spring House, Grainger, Tenn., Thomas Walter. Silver Springs, Wilson, Tenn., L. M. N. Cook. Shiloh, Wayne, N. C., Wm. Young. Sycamore Mills, Cheatham, Tenn., W. B. Nichols. Salt Lick Bridge, Braxton, W. Va., W. B. Hollison. Sweet Water, Monroe, Tenn., R. T. Soranges. Spring Creek, Wilson, Tenn., John T. Latta. Spring Creek, Wirt, Va., Samuel L. Davis. Salisbury, Rowen, N. C., A. Berneie. Tom's Brook, Shenandoah, Va., E. B. Shaver. Timpco, Grainger, Tenn., Henry Harris. Upperville, Fauquier, Va., Walter H. Hays. Woodstock, Shenandoah, Va., Conrad Litchfield. Wilsonville, Cocke, Tenn., Frank Gorman. Wacoctown, Wilson, Tenn., Wilson L. Waters. Westland, Loudon, Va., David Macintosh. Whitehall, Frederick, Va., Joseph A. Robinson.

United States Exchange Offices for Foreign Mails.

New York is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian, Belgian, Bremen and Hamburg Mails. Boston is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian and Bremen Mails.

Philadelphia is an office of Exchange for British and French Mails. San Francisco is an office of Exchange for British Mails only.

Rochester, Detroit, and Chicago, are offices of Exchange for British, Prussian and French Mails. EXCHANGE OFFICES FOR BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN MAILS.

New York, Boston, Albany, Troy and Portland exchange with some of the largest offices on the other side by through bags. Portland and the Delta Agents thence to the Canada line exchange with the Route Agents beyond. Buffalo exchanges with Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London and other offices on Lake Erie, Whitehall, Plattsburgh, Roure's Point, N. Y., with St. John's; Burlington and Rutland with St. John's and Montreal; Island Pond with Montreal, Sherbrooke and Roure's Point. The following exchange with some of the largest offices on the other side: Black Rock, Plattsburgh, Bridge, Dovers, Lewiston, Youngstown, Rochester, (with Co. in summer), Cape Vincent, Morris-town, (during summer), Fort Covington, N. Y.; Detroit, Franklin, Derby Line, North Troy, Swanton and Canada, Vt.; Cleveland, Ohio, (with Port Stanley in summer); Salt St. Mary, Port Huron, Detroit and Algona, Mich.; Fort Fairfield, Robinson, Canis, Houlton and

By a recent order of the Postmaster General, the fifth subdivision of the 42d instruction of the new Post Office Law, has been amended by striking out the word twelve and inserting thirty-two before the word ounces, so that it shall read as follows:—The weight of packages of seeds, cuttings, roots and plants, to be franked, is limited to thirty-two ounces."

All mail matter not sent at letter rates of postage, embracing books, book manuscripts, proof-sheets, and other printed matter, and all other mail matter except seeds, must be so wrapped or enveloped with open sides or ends as to enable the postmaster to examine the package without destroying the wrapper, otherwise such packages must be rated with letter postage. No communication, whether in writing or in print, can be sent with any seeds, cuttings or scions, maps, engravings or other matter not printed, except upon the separate payment of postage upon each separate matter at the established rates.

Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be remailed without being chargeable with postage. Where packages of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office, directed to one address, and the names of the club of subscribers to which they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance, shall be handed to the postmaster, he shall deliver the same to their respective owners. But this does not apply to weekly newspapers, which circulate free in the country where printed and published.

Weekly newspapers and all other printed matter to reach the United States, must be sent to the office of delivery in the country where printed, or to the office of delivery in the United States. If it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or short-paid, the unpaid postage must be collected on delivery at double the prepaid rate.

When the United States official postage entries on the letters received from Great Britain or the Continent of Europe, are in red ink, the letter is to be counted as paid, and is to be delivered accordingly; when in black ink, as usual, and the postage is to be collected on delivery. The postage on such letters is either wholly paid, or wholly unpaid. Postmasters can readily decide any question as to prepayment, by this simple criterion.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid), excepting those written to the President or Vice-President, at the request of Congress, or (on official business) to the chiefs of the executive departments of the government, and the heads of bureaus and chief clerks, and others invested with the franking privilege, to be prepaid by stamps or stamped envelopes, payable in money.

All drop letters must be prepaid. The rate of postage on drop letters, at offices where free delivery by carrier is established, is two cents per half ounce of weight, or fraction thereof; at offices where such free delivery is not established, the rate is one cent.

The single rate of postage on all domestic mail letters throughout the United States is three cents per half ounce, with an additional rate of three cents for each additional half ounce or fraction of half ounce. The ten cent (Pacific) rate is abolished.

RATES OF LETTER POSTAGE BETWEEN OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES, AND TO AND FROM CANADA, AND BETWEEN BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES. To and from Canada and New Brunswick, 10c. per 1/2 oz. respective of distance. To and from other British N. Am. Provinces, for distance not over 3,000 miles, 15 cts. Single rate of postage, for distance over 3,000 miles, 30 "

For every additional half ounce or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars, or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever. Engravings, when sent in the mail, are to be charged with the postage by weight.

Photographs on cards, paper, and other flexible material, (not in cases,) can be sent at the same rate as miscellaneous printed matter—viz., two cents for each 1/4 ounce or fraction thereof. Photographic Albums are chargeable with book postage—four cents for each four ounces, or fraction thereof.

Newspaper Postage. Postage on *single copies* to subscribers when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, per quarter, (three months) 35 cts. Single copy, per copy, per quarter, 15 "

For Tris-Weekly, 15 "

For Semi-Weekly, 10 "

For Weekly, 5 "

Where newspapers (one copy only) sent by the publisher to actual subscribers within the county where printed and published, free.

POSTAGE PER QUARTER (to be paid quarterly or yearly in advance) on NEWSPAPERS and PERIODICALS, when sent to actual subscribers in any part of the U. S.: Single copy, per copy, per quarter, 6 cts. Single copy, per copy, per quarter, 12 "

Monthly, not over 4 oz., and not over 12 oz., 6 "

Quarterly, not over 4 oz., and not over 12 oz., 1 "

Quarterly postage cannot be paid for less than three months. If a subscription begins at any other time than the commencement of an official quarter, the postage on the first quarter must still be entered in his account for that quarter. Subscribers for short terms—exceeding three months, say four or five months—can pay quarterly postage for the entire term of their subscriptions.

Letters for *one quarter* must be prepaid, and two-thirds, &c. The law only requires that at least one quarter's postage shall be prepaid, and not more than one year's postage. Any term less than one year, or one quarter, can therefore be prepaid at proportionate rates.

PUBLISHERS OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS may send to each other from their respective offices of publication, free of postage, one copy of each publication, provided the same be sent to the subscriber, included in their publications, bills and receipts for the same, free of postage. They may also state on their respective publications, the date when the subscription expires, to be written or printed.

Religious, Educational and Agricultural Newspapers of small size, issued less frequently than once a week, may be sent in packages to one address at the rate of one cent each, postage not exceeding four ounces in weight, and an additional charge of one cent is made for each additional four ounces or fraction thereof, the postage to be paid quarterly or yearly.

NEWSPAPERS may send newspapers and periodicals to regular subscribers at the quarterly rates, in the same manner as publishers, and may also receive them from publishers at subscribers' rates. In both cases, postage is to be prepaid, either at the mailing or delivery office.

Publications issued without disclosing the office of publication, or containing a fictitious statement thereof, must not be forwarded by postmasters to the office of delivery, or to the office of delivery of transient printed matter.

Postage on Transient Printed Matter. [All printed matter (except single copies of newspapers, magazines and periodicals) to regular subscribers, and all other printed matter, is to be charged at letter postage rates.]

Books, not over 4 oz. in weight, to one address, 4 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 8 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 12 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 16 cts.

Circulars, not exceeding three in number, to one address, 2 cts.; over three and not over six, 4 cts.; over six and not over nine, 6 cts.; over nine and not over twelve, 8 cts.

ON MISCELLANEOUS MAILABLE MATTER, (embracing all pamphlets, occasional publications, transient newspapers, handbills and posters, book manuscripts, and other printed matter, except maps, maps, printed, engraved, sheet music, blank flexible patterns, samples and sample cards, photographic paper, letter envelopes, postal envelopes or wrappers, cards, paper, plain or ornamental, photographic reproductions of any type, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, and scions,) the postage to be prepaid by stamps, is, on one package to one address, not over 4 oz. in weight, 2 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 4 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 6 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 8 cts.

By a recent order of the Postmaster General, the fifth subdivision of the 42d instruction of the new Post Office Law, has been amended by striking out the word twelve and inserting thirty-two before the word ounces, so that it shall read as follows:—The weight of packages of seeds, cuttings, roots and plants, to be franked, is limited to thirty-two ounces."

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK.
J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 1865

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All papers stopped at the expiration of the term of subscription, unless a new subscription is remitted. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and sent to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR, I consider the U. S. MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish, to the extent of my power, to commend it to the attention of Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every paper facility for enlarging the sphere of its usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Orders That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaux as may be of general importance or interest as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington Oct. 13, 1864.

DEAR SIR—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the UNITED STATES MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT, as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal operations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

W. DENNISON,
Postmaster General

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whose this number reaches, marked 59, will please remit at once.

(Official.)

Advertising Letters.—The following circular to postmasters, on the subject of advertising lists of cancelled letters has just been issued by the Department:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, FINANCE
OFFICE, Washington, 1865.

POSTMASTER:—It is estimated that, under the new law, the cost of advertising letters which, not being delivered, are sent to the Dead Letter Office, will amount to at least \$50,000 per year. This sum is an entire loss to the Department. If a large proportion of advertised letters were delivered, this expense might be justified by the advantages accruing to the public interest; that this is not the case is shown by the fact that at least seventy-five per cent. of all advertised letters are sent to the Dead Letter Office. In some of the larger offices the percentage of advertised letters that are delivered averages less than fifteen per cent.

In view of these facts, the Postmaster General deems it expedient to rescind his instructions to postmasters under section four of the act approved March 3, 1865.

You will, therefore, upon receipt of this circular, notify the publisher of the advertised list of your office, that hereafter, for the reasons above stated, but one cent per name will be paid for such advertising. If it is not possible to effect an arrangement to have the list published in the newspaper having the largest circulation at this rate, (one cent per name,) you will then cause the lists to be printed and posted conspicuously as a substitute for newspaper publication; provided, however, that the entire expense of such printed lists shall not exceed one cent per name. If neither of these arrangements can be effected, you will merely post manuscript lists, for which no charge will be allowed.

In the event of being obliged to resort to the posting of either printed or manuscript lists, due notice must be given the public of the change.

By order of the Postmaster General.

A. N. ZEVLEY,
3d Asst. Postmaster General.

PREPARING NEWSPAPER LIST.—We have received a large number of communications on this subject, which seems to be one on which the opinions of our subscribers are almost unanimous. We cannot find room for all of them, and we fear they would prove rather monotonous reading if we could, as there is necessarily a strong family likeness among them all. Those who have written us in regard to this matter, and do not find their letters in print, will please take this excuse, and, we hope, will find time to send us something quite as interesting on some other postal subject.

MAIL AGENT L. P. Hemstead, on Route 937, between New Haven and New London, was quite seriously injured in the accident on the N. H. and N. L. Railroad on the 22d ult. His head, mouth and one of his knees were bruised. His escape from more serious injury was remarkable. The car, in plunging down a high embankment, made two complete overturns, severely wounding all who were in it, and making a sad mixing up of mail bags, mail agent, and the general furniture of the room.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages this month.

Mails at the South.

The work of re-establishing the United States postal system within the States lately in rebellion continues to occupy largely the time and energies of the Postmaster General, his Assistants, and the employees of all branches of the Department. The long lists of re-established post offices which have appeared in our columns for the past few months are but an imperfect index of the amount of labor involved in the postal re-construction of the South. Post-routes are being established, contracts entered into, appointments of postmasters and agents made, special instructions to meet special emergencies issued, and the whole postal system, with all the despatch which circumstances and a proper regard for the public interests will allow, is being once more set in operation.

When, in 1861, the secession of most of the Southern States swept from the control of the Department the post offices, with the whole material and appliances of the service within those States, the circumstances were sufficiently embarrassing to the Department and to those entrusted with its management. But the task of restoring what was then so rashly destroyed, is one of no ordinary character, and will require the exercise of no common amount of prudence, sound judgment—a requirement which we are confident will be promptly and fully met. Governor DENNISON's large experience acquired by his former connection with railroad enterprises, peculiarly qualifies him, in this emergency, for the most important portion of the duty before him, incidental to the transportation branch of the service to be re-established; and Messrs. RANDALL, McLELLAN and ZEVLEY, the Assistant Postmasters General, are gentlemen, the efficiency of whose past services in their several positions, renders it fortunate that those services are still available to the Department in the arduous task which is now before it. Special Agents of tried capacity are engaged throughout the South in carrying out the plans of the Department, and every day sees the old United States mail again traversing the regions from which it has so long been excluded, and post offices—real post offices—resuming the places which, during the war, were usurped by the sham ones of the late Confederacy. The important Mississippi steamboat mail route has just been re-opened under a most advantageous contract for a tri-weekly service between Cairo and New Orleans; routes from Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile and other important points, are already in operation; and no great length of time can elapse ere the mail service in the Southern States will resume—with the advantages of added improvements—the regularity which the shock of civil war so rudely disturbed. We hope and believe that this result will prove most potent as an agent in allaying whatever irritation may yet remain as a consequence of the recent strife, and as a means of establishing a cordial good understanding between Americans of all the States.

The following cheering intelligence from the Provisional Governor of South Carolina speaks volumes in favor of the timely and earnest action of the Department in regard to postal re-arrangements, and for the good conduct and high hopes of the people of that State generally:

GREENVILLE, S. C., Aug. 18, 1865.

TO THE HON. GOV. DENNISON, Postmaster General.—Dear Sir: In reply to your communication received from your Department, I have the honor of stating that the railroad companies in South Carolina are in a condition to carry the mails, by their roads and backs, from the ends of their roads to the towns and villages in the State, as far as they run, and then the mails will be sent in backs to their destination.

The Governor then enumerates the roads in South Carolina specially as fit for duty, and continues:

It is a matter very much desired that you should give us mail facilities as soon as possible. We are in a woful condition, without newspapers or letters. I have the gratification of stating to you that South Carolina is all loyal, and taking the oath cheerfully. She will be the first to take her place in the Union, as she was the first to go out, unfortunately. With great respect, &c.

B. F. PERRY.

We have often called the attention of postmasters to the importance of exercising great care in sending off the letters received in their offices; yet we fear that many of them are still culpably negligent of their duty in this respect. Scores of letters are received at the distributing offices, which should never have left the offices where they were first deposited, until the parties who wrote them had properly directed them. These go to the distributing offices in all shapes and all conditions. Some are directed so illegibly that they cannot be read; some have simply the name of the party and the State, or town, or county; and some have the name of the town, county and State, with nothing else. A few are sent off from the distributing offices at a venture, are generally returned, marked "no such person here," and finally they "fetch up" in the Dead Letter Office. Now a little attention on the part of the postmasters would have prevented all this confusion and uncertainty. In cases where the writers are known, their letters should be handed back to them for proper direction; and when this cannot be done, the postmasters are instructed to send these letters to the Dead Letter Office. Letters should not be sent to this office, when there is a possibility, without serious inconvenience, of submitting them for redirection to the parties who wrote them.

Bloomington Ferry, Hennepin Co., Minn., was incorrectly printed in the list of New Post Offices, &c., in our last number as Bloomington, Ferry Co., Minn.

X. M. C. is crowded out this month. He will be heard from soon.

Postage on Letters forwarded by Whale Ships.

In reply to several inquiries addressed to us respecting the rate of postage chargeable on letters sent by whale ships to persons on board of other ships on the ocean, we have to state that the Post Office Department has decided that such letters should be regularly posted at and received from the post office at the port of departure, as required by the 10th Section of the Act of March 3, 1865, and are subject to a United States postage of 10 cents per single rate; the same as is charged under the provisions of the 8th Section of the Act of July 1, 1864, on all letters for foreign ports and places, to which different rates of postage have not been established by Postal Conventions with foreign countries.

We are permitted to publish for the information of postmasters and the public, the following letter on the subject addressed to the postmaster of New Bedford, Mass., by the 1st Assistant Postmaster General:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 25, 1865.

C. W. CHAPMAN, Esq., Postmaster, New Bedford, Mass.:—I have carefully considered the suggestions made in your letter of the 14th inst., relative to modifying the instructions contained in my letter of the 23d ult., on the subject of the proper amount of U. S. postage to be levied and collected upon letters conveyed by whale ships sailing from United States ports, but do not see how I can adopt your suggestion to levy a rate upon such letters deposited in your office, and a cent rate upon letters mailed and forwarded by other offices. The five cent rate to which you refer, is applicable to letters forwarded to British Colonies or Possessions in the British mail, upon which we collect our inland rate of postage as established by Postal Convention with Great Britain, (namely, five cents per single rate of half ounce or under); and the three cent rate to which you refer, is applicable to letters forwarded to the Sandwich Islands by private ship, via San Francisco, in our domestic rate of postage, which is collected under an arrangement concluded with the Post Department at Honolulu, and is not of general application.

The Department would be pleased to see the reduced rate you have proposed, on the letters in question, if they could be properly regarded as domestic correspondence. Additional legislation seems to be required to provide for letters of this class, as no specific provision is made for them by existing laws. I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ALEX. W. RANDALL,
1st Asst. Postmaster General.

PHILOSOPHICAL.—A new postmaster has recently been appointed at a town in Pennsylvania, and the editor of the local newspaper, after announcing the fact, and the name of another unsuccessful candidate, goes on to publicly express his own private sentiments in regard to the matter as follows:

The editor of the Bulletin was also a candidate for this office, but, unlike the other two, had no wealth at his back. He had nothing but hard work, long services, and the "mudisils" to urge his claims. Of course he failed. He could give a score of reasons why the President of the United States and our members of Congress have made a great mistake by not appointing him to that responsible office. Firstly, he wanted it. Secondly, he had earned it. Thirdly, he ought to have had it. Fourthly, he tried to get it. Fifthly, the President knew he wanted it. Sixthly, Mr. Congressman W. knew that also. Seventhly and mostly, the editor is a such bitter looking man that either of the other applicants, and should have stood at the ladies' window to hand out the letters. Deeming this last entirely sufficient, we will not name the other two reasons.

Well, being left out in the cold, we now expect to hear our reverend going to the post office every day, and making faces through that hole at the new postmaster for about four years. If he don't complain of being haunted by that time, we shall conclude that he can stand another term, just as his predecessor had come to the conclusion that he liked it "as far as he got," and would like to get further in the same direction. We can say to those who are not here, will and are quite as sorry that we did not succeed as they are; but we have seen too much of the "fortunes of war" to "like it to heart," and trust they will not, but do, as we say, singly shall fight on in the glorious cause of the Union, may or no pay, until these United States shall be purged of the two giant sins of the age—Treason and Slavery.

Don't do it.—There is a class of men traveling on the railroads, who consider themselves privileged characters wherever they go, and especially so in the mail rooms. Without pausing to consider the mail agent's responsibility to the Department for the faithful performance of his duty, which of course embraces the carrying out of the instructions of the Department to regard to excluding "outsiders" from the mail room, they unblushingly, and often when their presence is a serious annoyance, enter the mail room, appropriate to their use the agent's chair, fill his room with tobacco smoke, and besmear his floor with their filthy saliva. Perhaps they are old friends, who take it for granted that "Joe," "Jack," or "Ned," the agent, will not object to their presence; or they may be strangers, who trust to their impudence, and it may be the tender of a cigar or a whiskey flask, to secure for themselves a pleasant place, where they can enjoy their cigar, tell "smutty" stories, and have a "good time generally." This is wrong, decidedly wrong; and did these persons know how much annoyance they occasion an agent who desires to obey the commands of his superiors, they would, if they respected the agent's feelings, refrain from such disagreeable practices. An agent of the Department is expected to obey his instructions—these are definite and easily understood; and they are not so many nor so extraordinary as to be seriously burdensome. To him is committed an important charge, the accurate understanding and performance of which, perhaps, involves weighty interests. His time and his talents are hired by the government, and should be devoted to the service he is paid to perform. This he cannot properly do, if his attention is constantly called away from his work. We are confident that not one agent in ten desires the company of these "outsiders"; but, perhaps, the agent is too kind-hearted, too good-natured, to risk hurting their feelings by telling them that his room is not a proper place for them to lounge in. And we say to these persons when you see a mail room door open, and an unoccupied chair standing invitingly among the mail bags, and feel yourselves almost irresistibly impelled to enter the room and occupy the chair—don't do it.

Answers to Correspondents.

Removing Site of Post Office.—G. C. G., S. Y.—N. H.—Postmasters are forbidden to make any material change in the site of a post office without the consent of the Department. In your case, the distance to which you propose to remove the office is so short that it can hardly be considered an material change to so remove it, if such removal will not prove an inconvenience in some other way to those who receive and deposit their mail matter at your office.

Usual Business Hours.—C. A. T., U. S. Mass.—If the stores in your village close at 7 P. M. on Thursdays and Thursdays at 9 on other evenings, those hours may fairly be considered as terminating the business portion of the day, and, in our opinion, you may with propriety follow the storekeepers' example, especially as you say that 99-100ths of the patrons of your office are in favor of your so doing.

Affixing Stamps, &c.—C. McC., P.—N. Y.—It is no part of the duty of a postmaster to affix stamps to letters for those who purchase them. For ladies and small children this service may properly be performed as an act of courtesy, but no one can demand it as an act of duty. 2. Whatever amounts you have expended in fitting up your office (having previously received the necessary authority from the Postmaster General) will of course be allowed in your accounts. All box-rents must be paid in your accounts. This is so clearly stated in the law, that we are surprised at receiving so many inquiries on the subject.

Delinquent Mail Contractor, R. C. B., W. V.—Mich.—For the irregularities complained of by the contractor, he is liable to be heavily fined. Report him again to the Inspection Office, with all particulars of his shortcomings.

Unpaid Drop Letters.—B. H. F., W.—N. C.—The point is well taken, Brother W., and we beg to thank you for calling our attention to the matter. The oversight has been remedied. We should be glad to hear from you.

Exchanging Stamps, &c.—G. W. T. S.—N. H.—1. Postmasters are not forbidden, nor are they required, to exchange stamps of one denomination for those of another. It may be done as an accommodation, in some cases; but are in good and salable condition. 2. It is not allowable for people to take mail matter from their boxes by reaching through the place of delivery.

Giving Notice to Publishers, &c.—J. R. L., P.—N. J.—In giving notice to a publisher that a paper sent to your office is refused, or for any other reason remains dead in the office, address such notice to the P. M. of the place where the paper is published, and add to the direction "to the Publisher of" (naming the paper). This you will of course send free. See Instruction under Sec. 9, Act of 1863.

Opened by Mistake.—D. P. F.—Mo.—This intendment is quite sufficient in cases where a letter has been opened by mistake, when delivered to a person bearing the same name as that in the address. Such an occurrence is often an unavoidable accident. But some ladies (we beg pardon—persons) are rather apt to jump to the conclusion that a letter is intended for them because it bears a somewhat similar name. In cases of probability, but also of doubt, the letter should be opened by the party on delivery, and returned at once if found to be meant for another—a fact which can generally be ascertained without reading it through.

Forwarding Misdirected Letters.—J. K. W.—N. J.—A letter not bearing the correct post office address, is a misdirected letter; and if forwarded to the wrong office in consequence, and is returned to the right one, a second postage must be charged and collected on it before delivery.

Delivering Matter for Other Offices.—R. K. S., M. C.—Ills., (and others).—Postmasters are forbidden by the Regulations to deliver from their respective offices matter passing through them addressed to other post offices.

Mutilated Currency.—J. C. B., F.—Grova, Ills., (and others).—Mutilated Currency in sums not less than \$3, should be sent for redemption, (registered, and free,) to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D. C. If \$100 or over is sent, send by Adams' Express, unpaid.

Exchange Papers.—R. J. L.—N. H.—An editor receiving an exchange paper addressed to himself may authorize any person to take it from the post office. What subsequent disposition is made of it is a matter of no concern to any but himself.

Re-appointments.—W. T. I. M.—Pa.—We cannot advise you on this subject; your action must be governed by your own knowledge of the circumstances and your regard for your own interests. There are no official regulations concerning such matters.

Unpaid Letters, &c.—C. T.—Ill.—1. You are right in sending all unpaid domestic untraced letters from civilians, (addressed to persons not officially notified to receive them) to the Dead Letter Office. See Act of March 3, 1865, and Instructions therewith published. 2. Your resignation would probably be accepted, and your recommendation of a wounded soldier, as your successor, would doubtless have due weight with the Department.

Return Dead Letters.—Z. N. C.—Mass.—In the February No. of the Mail you will find full directions as to the proper method of charging and crediting the unpaid postage on return letters.

Drop Books.—J. A. S. L.—There is no other rate of postage prescribed by law on books, except that of four cents for each four ounces or fraction thereof.

Mailing "Direct."—L. A. R., B.—Pa.—Postmasters are required by the Regulations to mail "direct" all letters on which a request to do so is written.

Mail Carriers Carrying Newspapers, &c.—C. W. F. T.—Mich.—Mail carriers may lawfully carry, outside of the mails, newspapers, books, pamphlets and magazines, to regular dealers or subscribers, or for sale. Contractors and other persons may lawfully do the same thing.

Conflicting Claims to Letters.—L. B. E., T.—Pa.—You are rather a knotty case, but we think it can be decided in this way: If a letter reaches your office addressed to Mrs. John Smith, it should be delivered to the person known to you as legally bearing that name—and nothing can justify you in delivering it to a person known to you as not being legally entitled to bear that name. Of the contents of letters you can officially know nothing; consequently, your only guide in delivering them must be the regulation of the Department, which says that "the persons entitled to receive letters are those whose names are in the address."

Newspapers published in the County.—J. M. C.—It is only weekly newspapers that are entitled to bear that name in the mails to subscribers within the county where published. Daily and tri-weekly papers must be prepaid.

Sundry Matters.—Z. W. C.—Ind.—1. Packages of small religious, educational and agricultural newspapers must be sent to one address in order to entitle them to pass at the reduced rate of postage. When you have delivered them to that address, your duty is ended; and if the person receiving them wishes them re-mailed, he must pre-pay transient postage on them by stamp. 2. Quarterly postage cannot be pre-paid by stamps, but must be paid in money, either at the mailing or delivering office. 3. A package containing "a box and contents, a bottle of medicine and a book" should be charged with letter postage—excluding the bottle altogether if not so secured as to prevent any possible injury to other mail matter by its breakage. 4. Uncalled-for circulars are to be disposed of with the waste paper, the proceeds to be credited to the Department. 5. Never deliver a registered letter without taking a receipt, to be kept on file in your office, as well as the return receipt to be sent to the mailing P. M. 6. The amount of sales of stamps will probably not in itself have anything to do with the matter you refer to. If the business of an office has really increased, the sales will have increased in proportion.

Canadian Correspondence.—I. T. T.—N. Y.—The discrepancy you refer to has been corrected. Unpaid letters for Canada should not be post-billed to the Exchange Post Office to which they are sent to be forwarded.

"Return" Letters.—S. F. B. F.—N. H.—The "return" letters sent to your office for delivery are of course post-billed and charged to you. But in case you cannot deliver them they are to be again sent to the Dead Letter Office, in which case you do not of course charge any other office with the postage due on them. Read carefully the Instructions under Sec. 7 and 8, Act of 1863.

Compensation of Postmasters, &c.—T. H. P.—Fla.—The first four sections of the Act of July 1, 1864, contain all the general information in regard to the compensation of postmasters which it is possible to give. Special information on this subject must be obtained from the Department. By addressing the 1st Assistant P. M. General, you will obtain the Laws, Regulations and Instructions, which you say you are desirous of. But your predecessor probably had them, and if so, it is his duty to deliver them over to you.

Specimen Copies.—O. A. L.—Ky.—No publisher can send specimen copies of his paper through the mails without pre-paying the postage thereon (at transient rates) by stamps. If such copies reach your office unpaid, you should not deliver them until that postage has been paid by the persons to whom they are addressed. Report such cases, with the name of the paper and publisher, to the 1st Assistant P. M. General.

Forwarding Letters.—W. P. R., E.—Ill.—Any private individual is at liberty to mail as many letters addressed to the same person, in one envelope, pre-paid at letter rates, as he chooses. A postmaster, on receiving a request to forward several letters, should do so, returning each one, and charging it with an extra postage.

Handling Mail Matter.—E. L. O. F.—N. Y.—No person (other than a Special Agent of the Department) has a right to handle mail matter in a post office except the sworn assistants, clerks and letter carriers employed in that office. A mail messenger, or the postmaster of another office, has no such right.

Congressmen's Letters.—B. C. V.—Ky.—The franking privilege of members of Congress covers all correspondence (official or otherwise) to or from them, of which they are selected to the first Monday in December following such term.

Unsealed Letters.—F. B. B., C.—N. Y.—A letter dropped into a post office unsealed, or which has become accidentally unsealed in passing through the mails, should, when the fact is discovered by a postmaster or clerk, be sealed. This is not made a duty by law, but is obviously made so by common sense, of which law is said to be the perfection. If letters arrive at the office of delivery unsealed, it is perhaps better to so deliver them, noting the fact of their arrival in that condition.

U. S. "Request" Envelopes.—J. R. G., E.—N. Y.—The Department does not print the "business card" of a firm on envelopes gratis, but does agree to print on the stamped envelope a request to "return in (not exceeding thirty days) to" any particular firm or person, if not called for within the specified time. Not less than one thousand such envelopes can be ordered at one time; but all the envelopes now issued by the Department bear such a request, printed, with blanks for the time and names.

Foreign Postages.—T. J. W., B.—O.—The rates given in our Table of Foreign Postages, are all which can be pre-paid in the United States, but those rates do not in all cases pre-pay in full to destination. The 2c. rate to Great Britain and Ireland pays in full, and also the 15c. rate (per quarter ounce) to France, and the different rates to the German States. To various other countries the pre-payment is limited to the port of arrival. See column of "Foreign Miscellany."—J. E. H., C.—Ky.—The rates given in our Table include the U. S. inland postage. The full postage on a letter from any part of the United States to Great Britain or Ireland is now 24 cents per half-ounce.

Cents.—D. A. C., M.—Ill.—There is no provision by law or otherwise for postmasters obtaining cents through the Department, either with or without expense. You are not likely to suffer long for lack of them, as they are becoming superabundant in quantity.

Overcharges and Undercharges.—H. M. S., V.—Ind.—There is a book sheet of "Overcharges and Undercharges" furnished by the Department, on which the entries you speak of can be made.

Swearing to Quarterly Accounts.—S. A. W., F., S.—Kansas.—It is necessary for a postmaster to make oath to the correctness of such quarterly account. The reason probably is, that every postmaster is thereby made more likely to satisfy himself that the account is correct before swearing to it, which of course every honest man will do.

Postage on Drop Letters.—L. R. O.—Ill.—The rate of postage on drop letters at offices where there is a free carrier's delivery is two cents per half-ounce; and the law providing for their delivery, at offices where no free carrier's delivery exists, at the "pre-payment postage" of "one cent only," evidently intends that the charge shall be at the rate of one cent per half-ounce—not one cent each, without regard to weight. In the official instructions under Sec. 15, Act of 1865, the charge of one cent is referred to as the rate of postage, and it is there stated that "at free delivery offices, as here paid rate for 'drops' will be two cents, as before."

Giving Receipts for Letters.—A. L.—Ills.—Postmasters are not required to give receipts for valuable letters deposited in their offices, except in the case of registered letters. If the insurance companies wish such receipts, they may obtain them by registering their letters.

UNITED STATES MAIL

Postage on Unpaid Letters from England, &c.—A. W. H. N. Y.—Read the paragraph headed "Collections in Coin," in column of "Miscellaneous Information," and you will discover why a double letter from England reached you, marked "6c.," and why you were wrong in crediting yourself with 17c. overcharge. The postage on such letters is payable in coin, or its equivalent in U. S. notes on the day of its arrival here. The "bookseller" who wants you to send him a list of names is a lottery swindler—so don't do it.

Miscellaneous Information.

Dead Letters.

By the instructions under the postal laws, UNMAILABLE LETTERS are specified to be—Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes. Unpaid letters for foreign countries, on which prepayment is required by the regulations. Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination country is known. Letters misdirected to places where there are no post offices. Civilian's letters, (domestic) wholly unpaid, (including unpaid drop letters).

Foreign Letters, &c.

REGULATIONS FOR RATING LETTERS TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.—The attention of postmasters is particularly called to the mode of postage upon letters changed in the mails between this country and the United Kingdom, which differs essentially from the United States domestic scale, in the weight of the packet or letter exceeding one ounce.

One rate for a single letter not exceeding 1/2 oz. in weight. Two rates when over 1/2, but not exceeding 1 ounce. Four rates when over 1, but not exceeding 2 ounces. Six rates when over 2, but not exceeding 3 ounces; and so on, charging two additional rates for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

Thus, a letter to Great Britain, weighing 4 1/2 ounces, should be paid \$2.40, being chargeable as five ounces, or ten rates; but if \$2.16 (nine rates only) are paid, owing to an omission to count the fraction as a full ounce, it then goes unpaid, and the \$2.16 is lost to the writer. These letters (and all other part-paid letters to foreign countries) are treated as wholly unpaid, and the amount paid lost to the sender.

In no case should 3 or 7 rates be collected upon a letter or packet addressed to the United Kingdom, the proper charges being either 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 rates, &c., according to weight. Notwithstanding the explicit instructions of the Department on this subject, it is found that many postmasters are in the practice of charging postage upon letters and packets for the United Kingdom according to our domestic scale, (viz.: one rate for each half ounce or fraction of half an ounce, and so insufficient amounts of postage are frequently prepaid, which are entirely lost to the senders, as no account is taken of short payments of postage.

Letters to foreign countries, where prepayment of postage is compulsory, when insufficiently paid are sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be opened and returned to the writers, and are thereby delayed one or two mails, and, no doubt, in many cases, causing serious loss and annoyance to the writers.

REGISTRATION FOREIGN LETTERS.—Letters can be registered in the United States for Great Britain and Ireland, Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, or Bremen, Hamburg or Prussian closed mails. Letters to Canada can be registered, but not to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward's Island. Postmasters will, therefore, decline to register letters addressed to other foreign countries.

The registry fee to be charged on registered letters to Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, or Bremen, or Hamburg, or any Prussian closed mail, and to Canada, is five cents. To Great Britain and Ireland, twenty cents. All registered letters must be prepaid in full to destination. See "Foreign Miscellany" on fourth page of this paper, for full information regard to rating all foreign letters.

Our Postal Convention with the United Kingdom, provides that each country shall levy and collect its postage only on newspapers, at the rate of two cents each, whether they are sent or received. Hence, newspapers received in this country from Great Britain come prepaid the British postage only, and postmasters are particularly, in all cases, to collect the United States charge of two cents on their delivery.

CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE.—Irregularities having arisen in respect to Canadian correspondence, the following regulations are observed: Letters addressed to Canada must be mailed to a United States Exchange Office. Letters cannot be sent direct to Post Offices in Canada. Postage on a single letter to or from Canada is 10 cents, prepayment optional; but the whole postage must be prepaid or none. Part prepayments are not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

A postmaster may frank a letter to Canada the same as to any point in the United States; but it is optional for the Canadian P. O. Department to deliver such letter free, or charge full postage on it, at its pleasure. COLLECTIONS IN COIN.—In pursuance of the provisions of a resolution of Congress, approved March 1, 1853, all postages on unpaid letters received from foreign countries in the mails despatched to this country from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen, or Belgium, are collected in gold or silver coin. Should, however, payment of such postage be made in the premium on a corresponding amount of coin, tendered in United States notes, the same is to be accepted in lieu of coin. The amount to be collected in U. S. notes, (in case coin is not offered,) is marked on each letter on its arrival at U. S. Exchange Offices, and is charged in the post-bills. Hence, when coin is collected at the office of delivery, the difference should be entered in the account of Mails Received as an overcharge.

The above applies exclusively to the mails received from the countries mentioned. On not-going letters the former regulations remain unchanged, and, when prepaid, the regular rates (in currency) only are to be collected.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of August, 1865:

Table with columns: County, State, Route. Includes entries for Albany, Baker, Ga., Albany, N.Y., and others.

Table with columns: Name, County and State, Nearest Office. Includes entries for Anderson, Mich., and others.

DISCONTINUED.

[In the annexed list will be found the names of the nearest offices to which mail for those having been discontinued, should be sent.]

Table with columns: Name, County and State, Nearest Office. Includes entries for Anstin, Ross, Ohio, and others.

Table with columns: Name, County and State, Nearest Office. Includes entries for Duck Creek, Trumbull, Ohio, and others.

NAMES CHANGED.

Berge's Iron Works, Ocean, N. J., to Bricksburg. Brint, Isabella, Mich., to Isabella. Crotty, La Salle, Ill., to Seneca.

Presidential Appointments.

Augusta, Richmond, Ga., Foster Blodgett. Ashland, Schuyler, N. Y., Levi H. Leib. Belfast, Waldo, Me., Samuel C. Thuray.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Buffalo Fork, Braxton, W. Va., Miss Elizabeth McCray. Boston, Culppeper, Va., Mrs. Lucy M. Carpenter.

Re-opened.

Anderson C. H., Anderson, S. C., Geo. W. Fant. Albany, Baker, Ga., Wm. Taylor. Aldie, Loudon, Va., Jonah Hood.

Jyer's Station, Gibson, Tenn., Mark Ehrbridge. Denmark, Madison, Tenn., Floride A. Keele. Duckport, Polk, Tenn., L. McLeod.

Estell Flat, Somerset, Pa., Grayson. Frankfort, Frankfort, Ky., Henry K. Henry. Ford's Ferry, Crittenden, Ky., Marion.

Jefferson Mills, Lincoln, N. C., Ulysses Alexander. La Fayette, Macon, Tenn., Enoch G. Cartwright. La Vergne, Rutherford, Tenn., John Ricketts.

United States Exchange Offices for Foreign Mails. New York is an office of Exchange for British, French, Prussian, Belgian, Bremen and Hamburg Mails.

Exchange Offices for British North American Mails. New York, Boston, Albany, Troy and Portland exchange with some of the largest offices on the other side by through bags.

MODE OF INDICATING THE PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE UPON LETTERS RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES. When the United States official postage entries on the letters received from Great Britain or the Continent are in full, the letters are to be considered as paid, and is to be delivered accordingly.

Domestic Postages.

The law requires postage on all letters, (including those to foreign countries when prepaid,) excepting those written to the President or Vice-President, or members of Congress, or (on official business) to the various departments of the government.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES. 1. TO OR FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MAILES.—Newspapers two cents each, with one cent for postage; pamphlets and periodicals, two cents each, not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if exceed two ounces; which is to be prepaid.

Letter postage is to be charged on all handbills, circulars or other printed matter which shall contain any manuscript writing whatever. Duplicates, when sent in the mail, are to be charged with letter postage by weight. Photographs on cards, paper, and other flexible materials (not in cases), shall be sent at the same rate as miscellaneous printed matter—viz., two cents for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Newspaper Postage. Postage on Daily Papers to subscribers when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, per quarter, (three months) 35 cts. Six times per week, 15 " Per Tri-Weekly, 10 " For Semi-Weekly, 10 " For Weekly, 5 "

MONTHLY, NOT OVER 4 OZ. Monthly, not over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz. 6 cts. Monthly, not over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz. 9 " Quarterly, not over 4 oz. 1 " Quarterly, not over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz. 3 "

Quarterly postage cannot be paid for less than three months. If a subscription begins at any other time than the commencement of an official quarter, the postage is to be paid by the subscriber in advance for the quarter. Subscribers for short terms—exceeding three months, say four or five months—can pay quarterly postage for the next term of their subscription and two-thirds, &c. The law only requires that at least one quarter's postage shall be prepaid, and not more than one year's postage. Any term longer than one year can therefore be prepaid at proportionate rates.

PUBLISHERS OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS may send to each other from their respective offices of publication, free of postage, one copy of each publication, and may also send to each actual subscriber, included in their publications, bills and receipts for the same, free of postage. They may also send to their respective publications, the date when the subscription expires, to be written or printed.

Religious, Educational and Agricultural Newspapers of small size, issued less frequently than once a week, may be sent in packages to one address, and charged four ounces in weight, and an additional charge of one cent is made for each additional four ounces or fraction thereof, the postage to be paid quarterly only.

Newspapers may send newspapers and periodicals to regular subscribers at the quarterly rates, in the same manner as publishers, and may also receive them from publishers at subscribers' rates. In both cases, the postage is to be prepaid, either at the mailing or delivery office.

Publications issued without disclosing the office of publication, or containing a fictitious statement thereof, must not be forwarded by postmasters. Packages sent in this manner, either at the rates of transit printed matter. Postage on Transient Printed Matter. [All printed matter (except single copies of news papers, magazines and periodicals to regular subscribers) sent in this manner, is to be charged letter postage rates.]

Books, not over 4 oz. in weight, to one address, 4 cts.; over 4 oz. and not over 8 oz., 8 cts.; over 8 oz. and not over 12 oz., 12 cts.; over 12 oz. and not over 16 oz., 16 cts.; over 16 oz. and not over 20 oz., 20 cts.; over 20 oz. and not over 24 oz., 24 cts.; over 24 oz. and not over 28 oz., 28 cts.; over 28 oz. and not over 32 oz., 32 cts.; over 32 oz. and not over 36 oz., 36 cts.; over 36 oz. and not over 40 oz., 40 cts.; over 40 oz. and not over 44 oz., 44 cts.; over 44 oz. and not over 48 oz., 48 cts.; over 48 oz. and not over 52 oz., 52 cts.; over 52 oz. and not over 56 oz., 56 cts.; over 56 oz. and not over 60 oz., 60 cts.; over 60 oz. and not over 64 oz., 64 cts.; over 64 oz. and not over 68 oz., 68 cts.; over 68 oz. and not over 72 oz., 72 cts.; over 72 oz. and not over 76 oz., 76 cts.; over 76 oz. and not over 80 oz., 80 cts.; over 80 oz. and not over 84 oz., 84 cts.; over 84 oz. and not over 88 oz., 88 cts.; over 88 oz. and not over 92 oz., 92 cts.; over 92 oz. and not over 96 oz., 96 cts.; over 96 oz. and not over 100 oz., 100 cts.

By a recent order of the Postmaster General, the fifth subdivision of the 42d regulation of the new regulations is to be amended by striking out of the word twelve and inserting thirty-two before the word ounces, so that it shall read as follows:—"The weight of packages of seeds, cuttings, roots and scions, to be franked, is limited to thirty-two ounces."

All mail matter sent at letter rates of postage, embracing books, book manuscripts, proof-sheets, and other printed matter, must be wrapped or enveloped in such manner as to be so wrapped or enveloped with open sides or ends as to enable the postmaster to examine the package without destroying the wrapper, otherwise such packages must be rated as letters. No postage is to be charged on matter not printed, except upon the separate payment of postage upon each separate matter at the established rates.

Exchange newspapers and periodicals cannot be remailed without being chargeable with postage. Where packages of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office directed to one address and the names of the club of subscribers to which they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance, shall be handed to the postmaster, he shall not be liable for their return to their respective owners. But this does not apply to weekly newspapers which circulate free, in the county where printed and published.

Books, newspapers and all other printed matter to the British North American Provinces, although sent from countries bordering on the line, are chargeable with the same rates as when sent to any point in the United States. All newspapers and periodicals must be prepaid by stamps. But if it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or short-paid, the unpaid postage must be collected on delivery at double the prepaid rate, if no neglect exists in the letters. Postmaster's consent of postage on printed matter to regular subscribers. No such paper should be delivered, unless it is either prepaid at the mailing office, or at the delivery office for at least a quarter. If not so prepaid, postmasters must collect postage on each copy as on transient matter. If they fail, they will be charged with the full postage due, and in clear cases removed from office for neglect.

To include or conceal a letter or other thing (except bills and receipts for subscription) in, or to wrap or print anything, after its publication, upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is illegal, and subjects such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage. Any word or communication, whether by printing, writing, marks or signs, upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, other than the name and address of the person to whom it is to be sent, and the date when subscription expires, subjects the package to letter postage.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES. 1. TO OR FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MAILES.—Newspapers two cents each, with one cent for postage; pamphlets and periodicals, two cents each, not weighing over two ounces, and four cents an ounce or fraction of an ounce if exceed two ounces; which is to be prepaid.

For distance not over 3,000 miles, 15 cts. For distance not over 4,000 miles, 20 cts. For every additional half ounce, or fraction of a half ounce, an additional rate is charged. Prepayment is optional on all letters for the British North American Provinces except Newfoundland, to which prepayment is compulsory.

books attached or bound, pamphlets, catalogues papers of music, prospectuses, circulars, and all other kinds of printed matter addressed to France, Algeria, or cities of Turkey, Syria, and Egypt in which France has post offices, (viz: Alexandria, Alexandria, Beyrout, Constantinople, Dardanelles, Galatz, Gallipoli, Ibraia, Iscolbi, Jafa, Kerasand, Latakia, Messina, in Asiatic Turkey, Mytilene, Rhodes, Salomica, Samoson, Sinope, Smyrna, Salino, Trebizond, Tripoli, in Syria, Talcia, Yarna, and Yalio) can be despatched to France direct, or by way of England, on newspapers, two cents each; periodicals, two cents, catalogues, or pamphlets, two cents per four ounces or fraction thereof; and all other kinds of printed matter the same as domestic rates, to be in all cases collected in the United States, whether sent or received. France in like manner collects its own postage on all kinds of printed matter, whether sent or received.

3. TO OR FROM THE GERMAN-AUSTRIAN POSTAL UNION IN THE PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL.—Newspapers sent in the Prussian closed mail are chargeable with a postage of six cents each, prepayment compulsory, being in full to destination in any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Newspapers received come fully prepaid at same rate of postage, and are to be delivered without charge. No provision is made for the transmission of other articles of printed matter in the Prussian closed mail, at less than letter rate of postage.

4. TO OR FROM GERMANY, VIA BREMEN OR HAMBURG MAIL.—Newspapers sent from the United States by the Bremen or Hamburg line, three cents each; prepayment required. This pays to any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Newspapers received by the Bremen or Hamburg line are to be like manner prepaid at same rate of postage in the United States. This is the United States postage only.

5. TO BELGIUM, IN THE UNITED STATES AND BELGIUM CLOSED MAIL.—Newspapers, gazettes and periodicals of works. Five cents for each package, the weight of which shall not exceed three ounces, and an additional rate of five cents for each additional weight of three ounces or fraction of three ounces. Prepayment required. Books, sheeted or bound, pamphlets, papers of music, catalogues, prospectuses, advertisements and notices of various kinds, printed, engraved, lithographed, or autographed. Five cents for each package of the weight of one ounce or fraction of an ounce, and so on, in the same proportion, for packages of greater weight. Prepayment required.

The above rates are in full of the postage to destination. In like manner similar printed matter received from Belgium, come fully paid, and is to be delivered without charge.

6. TO THE WEST INDIES, (NOT BRITISH), EXCEPT IRELAND, CENTRAL AMERICA, (EXCEPT ASPINWALL AND PANAMA), AND COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN, IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MAILES.—Newspapers sent, six cents each; prepayment required. Other papers received the rate to be collected is two cents only, the British postage being prepaid.

Time of Closing Mails at the New York Post Office.

Table with columns: Mail, Time. Includes entries for East Mail, 5:00 A.M., and others.

Mails are due at New York Post Office.

Table with columns: Mail, Time. Includes entries for North, 4:30 A.M., and others.

Post Office Hours.

The post office opens at 7:30 A.M., and closes at 7 P.M. A night clerk is in attendance at the delivery of letters, when called for at any hour of the night. Application should be made at the "night window," on Nassau street. Office open on Sundays from 9 to 10 A.M., and from 12 to 1 P.M.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

DEAHEIMER'S COMBINED STAMPING CUSHION AND PAD. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, August 8, 1865.

SIR:—Your favor of the 28th inst., in relation to a new Stamping Tablet and Cushion, is received. The merit of your invention is perceptible at a glance, and has my hearty approval. The plan of its arrangement, together with its compact and portable form, are such as to recommend it to general use. I have no doubt, that its adoption by postmasters would tend to give a plainer post-mark upon letters, and thereby prevent the defacement of the postage stamp. You have, therefore, the best wishes of this Department for its introduction among the various post offices of the country.

Very respectfully, M. S. ZEVELLY, 31 Ass't Postmaster General. CHARLES W. BAKER, MANUFACTURER OF MACHINE-MADE ENVELOPES, No. 29 Beekman-st., New York.

Bees leave to announce the Public that he is fully prepared to execute all orders for Envelopes of every size now used, at prices as low as can be offered at any other Establishment. The quality and uniformity of my goods being well known, renders it unnecessary for me to state the great superiority of my Machine-made Envelopes over all others. Samples furnished free of charge. TERMS CASH.

P. O. Marking and Rating STAMPS.

M. S. ZEVELLY, CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND. Customers to supply all kinds of STAMPS for use in Post Offices, (besides the regular ones,) at reasonable rates. Office Stamps, several kinds, from 12 to 25; Rating Stamps, 30 cents; Pad and Box Ink, 25 cents; Postmaster's Names, plain letters, 60 cents; Postmaster's clear impression; in this business, with Government patronage. Stamps delivered by mail. Send for a circular.

To Postmasters and Bankers of the North-west.

A New Style STAMPING PAD AND INK can be obtained from me at reasonable rates. The Pad gives a clear impression; the ink is of the best type, and is not affected by the weather. M. KRÄUS, Milwaukee, Wis.

TO POSTMASTERS.

Table with columns: Item, Price. Includes entries for Box of Black Ink, 50 cents, and others.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. VI, No. 1.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1865.

WHOLE No. 61.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Carriers vs. Boxes.

A correspondent (T. E.) August last, having at some length advocated the abolition of the box system at large offices and the substitution thereof of a delivery by carriers exclusively, we give place to a letter from another correspondent who takes somewhat opposite views:

Editor U. S. Mail:—Whether or not your permission to "uncork" will justify me in "pouring out my phials of wrath" on the carrier system, as I see it here, I leave for you to decide. I have been and still am an advocate of the theory, but preserve me from the practice as it comes before me now.

Phial I.—My letters have been delivered by the different carriers in nine months and a half, say nothing of extra on account of sickness. Causes, 1st, inefficient appointees; 2d, a small pay to keep a good carrier when you get one.

Phial II.—Boxholders can get their mail from fifteen to forty-five minutes before the carriers leave the office. This is the fault of the "sorters," who could remedy this if they would, and know enough.

Phial III.—Business letters are delivered too late. My store is less than thirty doors from the post office, yet my mail is always an hour and a half, generally two hours, and sometimes even longer, in the street. Why? The route includes business and residence streets. To save steps, the carrier branches off to private houses, though he has positive orders not to.

Phial IV.—Careless delivery. One of the best carriers I know, left a regular paper bearing the printed address "Mrs. Charles," at my store. Does Mrs. Charles look very much like Dr. Chaubertin? A few weeks ago I asked one of the sorters, "Did you receive such and such a package on Tuesday evening?" "Yes; gave it to carrier." "Haven't you got it?" "No." It was found at once, and I got it only forty hours after it reached the office.

Phial V.—No! I won't let loose any more this time. If you can make the practice of free delivery half as beautiful as the theory, you will deserve the thanks of many citizens, and receive those of
X. M. C.

UNIVERSAL STAMP SYSTEM.

O—, Ill., September 15th, 1865.

Editor U. S. Mail:—My object now is to respond briefly to the letter of M. your West Virginia correspondent, in the September number, and to suggest a plan by which all Newspaper postage may be paid and accounted for to the Post Office Department, without making a single scratch of a pen, namely: in the first place let Congress pass a law which shall require that all publishers shall send a bill with the first copy to each subscriber or club of subscribers, showing the name of the publication, the name of the subscriber, or list of names in case of clubs, and the date of the term of subscription. The next it shall require the postmaster to place said bill on file in such a manner that it may be referred to in three months from the date of filing, that he shall deliver no paper without having such bill on file, and unless the postage is paid for the whole term subscribed for, which shall be for no less than three months, the said bill shall be kept on file until the expiration of the term; further, the postmaster shall put stamps on every such first copy or package on delivery, equal to the amount of postage paid for the stamps to be cancelled, in like manner shall be treated the unpaid transient printed matter received.

It is obvious that the stamps so used account for such postage to the Post Office Department without any further record. And again the bills of the publishers when placed on file in a proper manner, so they may be referred to again in regular rotation every three months, will make the best and most accurate accounts that possibly can be kept of the subscribers without any record made by the postmaster whatever.

Now a few words in support of what, for the want of a name, I will designate the Universal Stamp System. In the collection of postage two things are very essential: first, to collect all of it, and next to render an account to the United States for all that is collected; at present in order to do this an account has to be kept of every cent collected; take for instance, the transient newspapers, received from Great Britain, an entry for the two cents is necessary for every one delivered. Again, take a publication to a subscriber, make four separate collections during the year, of three cents each if a monthly, every payment to be credited, record it on the newspaper account, giving the name of the publication, when published and how often, then make transcripts for the use of the department to be repeated every quarter until expired.

Under the plan above described, none of these accounts are necessary. Now, suppose it be extended to the Post Office boxes, so that instead of keeping an account of the rents, stamps are put on the boxes equal to the amount of rents paid for. Further, if you please, extend it also to the unpaid letters received, and to the fees of registered letters, which would embrace all the different accounts necessary in a country post office.

In order to facilitate business, stamps used inside of the office might be cancelled beforehand. The expenses incurred in the extra supply of stamps, may be saved, or nearly so, in blotted paper. Under the universal stamp system a post office may be destroyed by fire, and nothing saved therefrom except the stamps and stamped envelopes, yet the account with the department would not be disturbed in the least by such an event.

Again, in this age of wickedness and deception, when we see clerks pilfering goods and money from the merchants, of tellers appropriating funds of the bank to their own use, even of irregularities occurring in Wall street, is it not possible that in some instances a dishonest person may get employ in a post office, and secretly abstract from time to time money or stamps therefrom; but if it should be an office well regulated under the universal stamp system, no such thing would be possible without instant discovery, for the money or hand must balance the amount of stamps short from the original stock.
L. R.—P. M.

PREPAYING NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

P. O., C. F., Iowa, Aug. 24, 1865.

Editor U. S. Mail:—In the August number of the Mail, A. takes exceptions to the views of B. with regard to the prepayment of newspaper postage on the ground that it is impracticable. One of his points is that this: "Publishers could, and in many cases would, make a false report for the first issue of a quarter. Now, if, as he seems to think, it is an established fact, that publishers, as a class, are corrupt and unprincipled men, who would not hesitate to sell their honor for a few paltry pennies, then, certainly there would be one great obstruction to the practical working of a system of prepayment of newspaper postage; but I have not yet learned to regard any class of men engaged in honorable and legitimate business as devoid of principle. Again, there is no reason why the first issue in a quarter should be taken as a standard by which to determine the circulation of the paper for that quarter. Publishers, if compelled to pay the postage upon their papers, would, of course, add the amount of the postage to the price of the subscription. Now, let the law require them to pay at the end of each week, month or quarter, as the Postmaster-General might direct, the postage upon all papers, the subscription of which commences within that time, for the full time of the subscription to its expiration, he that a quarter or a number of years. This would be sufficient in the case of papers conducted on the advance pay system. In the case of those not conducted on that plan, it would only be necessary to add to the regular payments on papers to new subscribers, one quarter's postage on each paper, the subscription of which had expired, and which the publisher was still sending on "tick." The law might then provide for mailing sample copies, either at regular or transient rates, as would seem best, or leave that at the discretion of the Postmaster-General. These payments might be required to be made by the publisher under oath; and the affidavit might contain a clause setting forth that no papers not thus reported and paid had been sent by the publisher. Then give the postmaster the right to demand the mail books for inspection, in order to detect fraud in case he had reason to think all was not right. Let the penalties attendant upon fraudulent payments be severe, and it is my opinion that swindling could not be made profitable even if there was a disposition to make false reports. This would compel prepayment, and it seems to me there would be a great decrease of labor in all offices. But let us suppose that in the larger offices, where A. says, the strain would come, if the labor was not decreased, it would certainly be greatly simplified. The business which is now transacted with thousands of persons would then be confined to a few.

The gain to the Department would be considerable while the loss to the transient postmaster would be trifling, and they would be relieved of the most disagreeable task which now falls to their lot.

It is of course not expected that it would cause all complaint to cease; but that it would stop much of it, even A. must admit. A. thinks it is a good plan to "let well enough alone." So I think I do. But I think also, that it is a duty which postmasters and their clerks owe to themselves, to the Department, and to the people, to let this matter rest alone until it is "well enough."
J.

W—, O., Sept. 13, 1865.

Editor U. S. Mail:—I see that a number of your patrons are very much exercised over the collection of postage on newspapers sent to regular subscribers, and I agree that there are many inconveniences about it, but I have so far failed to see any better plan proposed than the one in use.

The most of the inconveniences about the matter, I apprehend, arise from the manner of keeping accounts and from the fact that the postmaster or clerk does not always know at a glance when postage is due on a particular paper, and the consequence is, he lets it run till the subscriber offers it.

I have found but very little difficulty in collecting postage if I have notified parties in time. There has always been exhibited by subscribers a willingness both to pay postage and to save the office extra trouble; but if it has been allowed to slip by the postmaster, and the subscriber has also forgotten it until it is a "dead horse," then look out for squalls.

My plan of keeping accounts is to keep a yearly alphabetical account with the newspapers, commencing 1st January each year, leaving a space sufficient under each paper for all possible subscribers. I put the date of the subscription opposite the name, and rule blank places for each quarter at the end. Then if more than one quarter is paid for, that amount is credited opposite the name up to the 1st of the next January. If more than the current year is paid for, a memorandum of that fact is made in this manner: "Paid to July, 1866," for instance—and the commencement of the year I open a new set of books, transfer what has been paid for to it, and it is then ready for the entries for the year at the commencement of each quarter. After I have made up my quarterly accounts, I post up an alphabetical list just inside the delivery hole, and out of sight of the public, showing the in-betweens, and all who owe for the current quarter, and am therein reminded every time, of the facts until a settlement is secured.

Where the amount of newspaper postage collected is large, an index to the names showing the pages of the newspaper accounts might be made without any trouble, and which would show accurately on investigation the state of each man's account.

Where a small office, the best way to classify is by offices of publication, as by putting all published in New York together, all in Boston, &c. An additional classification might be made by keeping weekly, tri-weekly, daily, and magazines apart. In fact there are many ways in which a newspaper account might be kept that will show at a glance the state of the accounts.
Yours, &c., H. C. P.

"A JOE'S COMMENT."

Post Office, C—, Sept. 13, 1865.

Post office clerks, of course, have a "hard road to travel," but what is the use of growling so much about it? In nearly every Mail there

is a chapter of lamentations from some mournful retailer of letters.

Brother clerks, you can't dodge it; you have got to come up to the bull-ring. What if an old woman does light on you and try to claw your eyes out through the delivery window? Just keep cool, and don't get scared; she can't reach you if you are smart. Supposing some old cuss says you stole his letter—don't "flee"—you didn't do it; and he is an ignorant old scallywag or he would not accuse you of such a thing. Brother clerks, stand up in your cowhides and sheepskins; don't mourn. We have been in the mill for 14 years, where there are thirty thousand inhabitants; but we ain't nashed up, yet. I have been outstayed with everything, from a report to Washington to a scientific mauling when caught outside; have been accused of all kinds of thefts, even to robbing a hen-roost. We know we didn't do it. What did we care? Brother chums, never get mad; leave your tempers on the door-step when you go to work in the morning. When you get a tough customer, give him facts (not lies) and enough of them, and clinch them. Never mind if they don't own up to you—they may, perhaps, be convinced themselves, and let you alone afterwards. What does a man expect when he enlists for the war? He don't think he is going to live on Canary bird-soup or humming bird's-eyes, and sleep in a leather bed. No; he calculates to get salt horse and hard tack, and a rough time generally. And so should a post office clerk expect to have a rough time of it. Buys, if you want to live to a good old age, and be happy, don't worry. Do your duty faithfully, to the best of your ability, right up to the mark; don't howl about it—who cares if you die? Yours, with the steeple out.
I Don't Growl.

TRIALS OF PATIENCE.

P. O. T—, O., Sept. 13, 1865.

Editor U. S. Mail:—Is it not singular as it is true, that misery loves company. For, to own the truth, I can scarcely avoid a feeling of satisfaction while reading the letters of your correspondents, in the reflection that all of the ill manners here centered here. "Is not that comforting?" said I—lady, I had almost written—who was informed that there was no letter for her. I believe you keep my letters, indeed, I do, and with eyes flashing fire, she left the office. Mr. Editor, we quailed. Who, I ask, could have done less?

Mr. C. handed me a letter written by his wife, some days before, but which he had been carrying about, forgotten, saying how she would scold did she know this. Of course, the letter did not reach its destination quite as soon as it should have done, and of course again, the wife called at the office to know the reason. But no reason was sufficient in her case for did not she afterwards see the post-mark of Friday, and did not she send on Tuesday? This was conclusive.

A. S. calls for his Dutch paper, but failing to find his name, he waits to know "where in thunder it was," but not having any correspondent near that locality, I cannot give him a satisfactory answer.

I think I can see very great propriety in St. Paul's placing patience amongst the graces, and at the same time so near the head of the list.
Yours, in the furnace, W. G., P. M.

"FRACTIONAL" STAMPS.

Some economical people attempt to pay their 3 cent postage by placing on their letters one two cent stamp and the half of a second one. Some postmasters, ill-informed, as I think, relative to their duty, forward such letters as paid by stamp. If the Mail agrees with me in opinion, will it not state for the information of whom it may concern, that letters thus stamped are to be treated as insufficiently prepaid, and, as such, are to be held for postage and in due course of business forwarded to the Dead Letter Office. [Yes, sir.—Ed. Mail.]

Occasionally, also, a letter meets my eye enclosed in a government envelope, but without postmark and with the stamp cancelled. The Mail will confer a service on the postal interests, by reminding postmasters that all letters should be postmarked, and all stamps cancelled. In the absence of either postmark or evidence of cancellation, envelopes, such as are referred to, can be used a second time or even oftener, and there are men small enough to think it smart to cheat Uncle Sam even in this pious fashion. Postmasters should not facilitate such small rascality by their negligence.
H—

A GOOD WORD FOR THE "MAIL."

(Our readers will bear us witness that we do not often publish such epistles as the following; but as this is from a lady, we hope that politeness rather than vanity will be considered as our motive for printing it.)

Post Office, B—, Maine, }
Sept. 12, 1865. }

Dear Mail:—Please find enclosed one year's subscription to the "Mail"; were it ten times as much I would not be without it. My clerks looked inquiringly at me when one announced the wrapper of the last number was marked 60, for they hail its advent with as much satisfaction as myself. Why, I should as soon think of closing the office entirely as to allow the "Mail" to stop. With its assistance we think we have become quite a model office, and would even welcome the finding Monsieur Tonson himself, and give him leave to poke into all our corners to see what he could spy out. I am free to say I attribute much of the ambition of my clerks to excel the interest they take in reading and following the suggestions of the "Mail." But I shall make you vain if I say much more; but I cannot forbear to add my note to the universal praise you receive, knowing by experience how encouraged we feel in well-doing when some one gives us a kind word.

I notice many of your correspondents are troubled to collect their newspaper postage; I have but little trouble that way. If I correct my lists during the last quarter, I could fill pages with post office trials and pleasures for pleasures we do have after all our thinking we are little less than second jobs.

But I will weary you no longer. Please accept my best wishes for your continued prosperity. And, meanwhile, I am, very respectfully,
Mary C—
Asst. P. M.

Mails in the South.

The following comprehensive schedule of railroad routes in the Southern States, on which postal service has been restored, is obtained from the official records of the Post Office Department. With a railroad map the reader can readily ascertain not only to what routes and offices postal service has been restored, but also what Southern railroads are again in regular operation, as the restoration of postal service specially follows the resumption of railroad facilities.

Virginia—Washington to Richmond, via Richmond, Fredericksburgh and Potomac, and Orange and Alexandria Railroads; Richmond to Danville; Gordonsville to Selma, Va. by Virginia Central Railroad; Lynchburg, Va., to Bristol, Tenn., via Virginia and Tennessee Railroad; Charlottesville to Lynchburg; Richmond to Weldon, N. C., and Petersburg to Lynchburg, by Southside Railroad, over river to Warrenton Branch Railroad. Total, 11 routes.

North Carolina—Goldstone to Charlotte; Raleigh to Weldon; Salisbury to Morgantown; Weldon to Wilmington. Total, 4 routes.

Tennessee—Nashville to Chattanooga; Knoxville to Dalton, Ga.; Knoxville to Goodson, Va.; Nashville to Decatur, Ala.; Nashville to Johnsonville; Memphis to Paris; Memphis to Decatur, Ala. Total, 7 routes.

South Carolina—Kingstonsville to Wilmington, N. C.; Kingsville to Augusta, Ga.; Kingsville to Camden; Kingsville to Columbia. Branchville and Charleston; Florence to Cheraw; Charleston to Florence; Columbia to Charlotte, N. C.; Columbia to Greenville Court House; Chester to Yorkville; Abson to Spartanburg; Newberry to Laurens; Charleston to Savannah. Total, 13 routes.

Georgia—Macon to Columbus; Macon to Atlanta; Fort Valley to Albany; Milledgeville to Gordon; Milledgeville to Eatonton; Augusta to Atlanta; Branch to Warrenton; Double Wells to Washington; Union Point to Athens; Atlanta to West Point; Atlanta to Chattahoochee; Kingston to Rome. Total, 12 routes.

Mississippi—Canton to Jackson, Tenn.; Columbus to Artesia; Mobile, Ala., to Columbus, Ky., via Mobile and Ohio Railroad; Meridian to Jackson. Total, 4 routes.

Louisiana—New-Orleans to Canton, Miss. The Postmaster-General has also invited proposals for the entire mail service of the several Southern States from Jan. 1, 1866, to June 30, 1867; the latter being the time when the regular letting takes place, and the time when the contracts would have expired had there been no interruption by the war. Proposals will be received by the Second Assistant Postmaster-General till Oct. 31, and decisions rendered by Nov. 15.

NEATNESS—Some person, in writing about pigs, remarks that they are naturally neat animals. This may be true for aught we know, never having posted ourselves thoroughly upon the subject of swine, and we will, therefore, grant that the writer made a correct statement. We have studied men more closely, and taking the greatest weight of evidence as the basis of our conclusions, we are forced to believe that neatness is not a virtue which generally among the members of the post office in different sections of the country, and while we find that most of them are kept in tolerable order, many are unclean, unwashed, unshaven, untidy and a low are dirty beyond description. This is deplorable. There is no good reason why a post office floor should have the accumulated dirt of months upon it and we fail to discover any beauty in a pile of "old soles" laid up in a corner amidst a miscellaneous assortment of bits of twine, scraps of paper, the remains of once smoked clay pipes, the whole embellished with fanciful designs not in "oil," but in tobacco juice.

Many a post master has solved a difficult problem involved in the keeping of his accounts while whitening a pine stick or paring an apple; but we can see no good reason why the chips and the apple-parings should be scattered over the floor of his office. Be neat, gentlemen postmasters—it will pay. Use the broom often. If your customers step from the muddy streets into your offices, leaving the traces of their untidiness upon your floor, sweep! sweep often! When a caller sees a broom in the hands of a postmaster or his clerk, he will, nine times out of ten, stop to wipe his feet on the door mat. Be careful, too, to keep your rooms well aired. It is healthy as well as pleasant to breathe fresh air. Good lungs when well supplied with fresh air will often insure a good digestion, and an old broom hung up over a clean floor is infinitely more respectable than a new broom which never sweeps clean because seldom used.

For the U. S. Mail.

Obituary.

It is due to our late, lamented postmaster, Charles S. Cutting, that his departure should receive more than a passing notice. He has lived among us for more than fifty years, and for the past thirteen years, faithfully performed the duties of his office, even in the last, literally dying at his post. A little more than twelve hours before his death, he was assisted to his desk where he stood and wrote several lines, although his suffering was intense. He died of dropsy at the advanced age of 85. With simple dignity of manner, kind and courteous to all, he was truly a gentleman of the olden school. A worthy member of the Methodist church, he was only professed religion, but lived it. He left the world with but one regret—the leaving his beloved and aged partner to tend her weary path alone—but his trust and faith was strong, and he knew that He who had separated them but for a "little while," would surely comfort and sustain her walking soul, till it should be called to join him in his celestial home.
Commack, L. I.
L. S. B.

In reply to numerous inquiries in regard to the non-appearance of Mons. Tonson in our columns, we are pained to record the fact that in his eagerness to save from injury a small mail bag, which was exposed to a violent rain storm, he was thrown from the top of a country mail coach, and severely injured in his head and right hand. This occurred several weeks since. He was taken to the house of a charming widow in the locality, where he was so kindly cared for, that it is hinted the wounds in the hand and head have got into the heart, and that his bachelor constitution must give way to the attack, which is pronounced incurable. This, however, is only rumor.

P. S.—A brief note, in a delicate hand, has just been received by the Editor—stating that if permitted, Monsieur Tonson will come again next month.

We desire to call the attention of business men to the following paragraph from the Chicago Tribune, of August 24.

MISDIRECTED LETTERS.—A correspondent sends us the following list of letters now lying in the post office at Cincinnati, Ohio, having accumulated there during the past week. He commenced mechanically to read the published letter list and was surprised to see the first name below, among the number evidently intended for a Chicago firm. He "went through" the list and dissected out the remainder—letters which no doubt have been misread, and whose failure to reach the houses named has perhaps caused no little grumbling at the post office authorities.

Here follow the names of eighteen firms doing business in Chicago, whose letters, having been misdirected to Cleveland, Ohio, are advertised. These letters were probably only one week in accumulating there, and their non-receipt has undoubtedly caused much hard feeling among the parties against the department for the general manner in which the postal business is done.

Scarcely a day passes without the occurrence of these cases in some of the smaller offices, while in New York, Boston, and other first class offices, they are multiplied to a very large number. Doubtless there are deceptions committed by persons having charge of the mails, but as all men are liable to err, our friends who make complaints should remember that perhaps they are no exceptions to the general rule. It has ever been the aim of the department to have its business transacted by efficient men, and the special agents are at all times glad to give their earnest attention to cases of real or even supposed deceptions; although experience has taught them that in a large number of cases the fault lies entirely with correspondents.

POST OFFICE SERVANTS.—A POINT relative to Post Office servants was issued. It appears that there are in London 120 first class sorters, paid 40s. a week, and rising by 1s. a week annually 40s.; 400 second class sorters, paid 23s. a week, and rising by 1s. a week to 30s.; 100 first class stampers, paid 38s. a week, and rising by 1s. a week to 35s.; 200 second class stampers, paid 21s. a week, and rising to 27s.; 230 first class town letter carriers, paid 26s. and rising to 30s.; 670 second class carriers, paid 20s. and rising to 25s. There are also 120 first class and 80 second class suburban letter carriers, who are paid fixed salaries of 23s. and 20s. respectively; and 100 supplementary carriers, paid a fixed salary of 18s. All those classes of servants are allowed a fortnight's leave of absence every year; receive full wages if laid up by accident while on duty; receive assistance to the extent of one fifth of the premium, in insuring their lives, and medical attendance and medicines. All are entitled to retiring pensions, and the Christmas boxes and other gratuities obtained by the carriers are supposed to average £13 yearly per man.—English Paper.

Letter Addresses.

Will Uncle Sam's train immediately haul this letter with others up into St. Paul, Ramsey County, I think Minnesota the State, And hurry it up, for it must not be late, Danford S. J—, the pride of his friends, Who travels the country from both of its ends For E— & F—, who have the best show That's ever opened doors for the public to go, So hurry me up, and after I start, Don't stop me for fear that Dan will depart To some other town—'twould fill me with woes, But should he—please forward wherever he goes,

My dear postmaster, you must know To what person this should go; To my friend J. B. Erhardt— Now a lawyer young and smart, Who's served his country long and well, And sent his share of "leaves" to — But he's all right in being partial, Has acted since as Provost Marshal; He proved to skulls where he was provost, His draft to "scape was case of "no go" His place of business now I'll fix, Wall Street, Number 76, Waltham, too, with extra speed, This must fly, you were my read, And so my unwise up I'll cork, And tell you plainly 'tis New York.

Look, Postman! Here no name you see, Only initials, M. E. G. Yet this you'll carry safe, I know, Where to I presently will show; This first must surely reach the town, Which, like its State, is widely known; By the same name—New York—I'll tell, The street and number, note these well; For Street East Thirty-first, you're bound, The house oft-times before you've found, Its Seventy-Seventh. That you'll receive The thanks of Meg and me, believe.

Lansburgh, N. Y. Is my destination, To Mr. Low Aldrich Of good reputation; The "Burch" was once known As the "Garden of Eden," 'Tis now a "Goose Pasture," Wherein Hogs do their feeding!

UNITED STATES MAIL.

(OFFICIAL.)



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1850. By J. HOLBROOK, Editor.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 1864.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance.

All communications to be addressed to the publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1864.

DEAR SIR, I consider the U. S. MAIL AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every support facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. B. AIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. B. AIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, Oct. 13, 1864.

DEAR SIR, I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the "United States Mail and Post Office Assistant," as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal regulations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and assistance of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

W. DENNISON, Postmaster General.
To J. GAYLER, Esq., Editor U. S. Mail.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding volume number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when they intend to renew. Those whose number reaches marked 60 or 61, will please remit at once.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet, in consequence of various circumstances, it is impossible to secure that result. Inquiries touching the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them at as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their paper is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official information on postal matters.

Changes in Foreign Postage.

It will be seen by reference to our Table of Postages to Foreign Countries that the rates of letter postage to Denmark, Norway, Schleswig, and Holstein, by Prussian closed mail, have been reduced and are now as follows:

To Denmark, Schleswig and Holstein, 31 cents per half ounce if prepaid; 33 cents per half ounce if not prepaid.

To Norway, 30 cents per half ounce if prepaid; 32 cents per half ounce if not prepaid.

Mail Transportation to Bermuda.

The Postmaster General has concluded an arrangement with Messrs. Mayle & Co. of New York, for the transportation of the United States mails monthly by steamship between New York, St. George's, Bermuda, and St. Jago de Cuba. The steamer *Fah Ave*, the pioneer of the line, will leave New York with the mails for Bermuda and St. Jago de Cuba, on the Tuesday next, Oct. 3, 1864, and thereafter a steamer will leave New York regularly on the first of each month. The United States postal charge on letters transmitted by this line of steamers is ten cents the single rate, prepayment required. Postmasters will send letters for Bermuda, &c., intended for transmission by this line of steamers, to New York for distribution.

Southern Mails.—A glance at the long list of re-opened post offices published in the present number of this paper will give a partial idea of the rapid progress which the Department is making in the task of postal reconstruction at the South. We notice with pleasure the evidence furnished by the re-appointment of the gentleman whose name in that list is marked (*), that at least some of the post office fraternity remained loyal and faithful to their trust throughout the rebellion.

We learn that the Post Office Department is about instituting suits against those postmasters in the lately seceded States who were induced to the government at the outbreak of the rebellion and have since declined or omitted to settle their accounts. Quite a number of them, however, have honorably paid up their indebtedness.

POST OFFICE BASE BALL.—The base ball players of the New York and Brooklyn Post Offices played a match at Hoboken, N. Y., recently, resulting in a victory for the New Yorkers by a score of 39 to 23.

CORRECTION.—The name of the Postmaster of Vicksburg, Miss., is Richard Barnett, not Garnett, as printed by mistake in a late number of the Mail.

The Post Office Department gives notice that the PENALTIES fixed by law for CARRYING LETTERS OUTSIDE THE MAILS, when not enclosed in Government Stamped Envelopes, will be rigidly enforced in every instance where violations are known to exist.

Steamboats and sailing vessels, excepting those to foreign countries having postal arrangements with the United States, railroads, express companies, stage and omnibus lines, are permitted to carry and deliver letters when covered by Government Stamped Envelopes of the denomination sufficient for the postage collectible thereon: PROVIDED, That the said Envelope shall be duly sealed, so that the letter shall be taken therefrom without tearing or destroying such envelope, and the same duly directed and addressed; and that the said letter, on receipt or transmission thereof, to be written on stamped or otherwise, appear on such envelope. Sec. 8, act of August 31, 1862.

Only letters relating solely to the CARGO OR ARTICLES CONVEYED AS FREIGHT by such steamboat, sailing vessel, railroad, express company, stage, or omnibus line, traveling over a mail-route, may be lawfully carried not so enclosed. UNPAID LETTERS FOR DELIVERY and those PREPAID BY POSTAGE STAMPS, cannot be carried outside the mail by any of these conveyances without subjecting the captain, owner, driver, or other employee to a PENALTY of \$150 for each and every such offense.

Postmasters and other Agents of this Department will see that the law is obeyed.

By order of the Postmaster General,
A. N. ZEVELY,
Third Asst. Postmaster General,
Post Office Department, September 15, 1865.

Government Stamped Envelopes are furnished at the following rates, per thousand, and proportionately for less quantities.

Letter size, 3-cent stamps \$34 50
Letter size, 6-cent stamps 33 50
Official size, 3-cent stamps 28 00
Official size, 6-cent stamps 28 00

The actual cost, less the value of the stamps, is respectively \$4 50 and \$8 50 per thousand, or 45 cents and 86 cents per hundred—being less than half a cent for a letter size envelope.

Envelopes of larger denominations—12, 24, and 40 cents—may also be obtained.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, Aug. 19, 1865.

The attention of Postmasters, Special Agents, and all other officers of the Post Office Department, is specially directed to the sixth section of the act of Congress approved March 25, 1864, which imposes a fine of "not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars," for each offense for placing the words "United States Mail," or any other words, letters, or characters of like import, on a steamboat or other vessel, stage coach or other vehicle, "not actually used in carrying the mails of the United States," or for giving notice, "by publishing in any newspaper or otherwise," that any steamboat or other vessel, stage coach or other vehicle, is used in carrying the mails of the United States "when the same is not actually so used."

This is in the words following, viz:

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall print, post, or in any other manner place upon, or attach to, any steamboat or other vessel, or any stage coach or other vehicle, which steamboat or other vessel, or stage coach or other vehicle, is not actually used in carrying the mails of the United States, or any other words, letters, or characters of like import; or if any person or persons shall give notice, either by publishing in any newspaper or otherwise, that any steamboat or other vessel, or any stage coach or other vehicle, is used in carrying the mails of the United States, when the same is not actually so used, every person so offending, or wilfully aiding or abetting therein, shall, on conviction by any court of competent jurisdiction, be fined in any sum not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars for every such offense; one half for the use of the United States mail, and the other half to the use of the person intending and presenting for the same.

The law must be enforced against all offenders, and Postmasters or other officers of this department are hereby instructed to take the necessary steps for enforcing its provisions.

W. DENNISON,
Postmaster General.

Valuable Packages.

We cannot with too much earnestness impress upon the minds of post office clerks the importance of handling all mail matter with care. No matter what the package may be, whether letter, newspaper, pamphlet, or what else, it is entrusted by the person who deposits it in the Post Office, to the care of the Government and he pays therefor the stipulated sum of money for its safe transmission to the hands of his correspondent. In this respect, all mail packages are valuable; but cases frequently occur where peculiar care should be exercised. We speak not now of letters only, but also of articles sometimes sent in the mails, which, intrinsically, are not of any great value, but from circumstances connected with them—old and dear associations it may be—are most valuable, either to the sender or to the person to whom they are sent. They may be matters easily injured, like photographs of large size, daguerreotypes in cases, albums, elegantly bound books, &c., or they may be rolls of music, packages of plants, seeds, or a thousand other things. In tossing these into the distributing tables to the bags or boxes unless care is observed they may fall to the floor or strike against the wood-work of the frames or boxes and be broken or bruised or burst open, thus perhaps occasioning a serious loss to the persons for whom they are intended.

Cases frequently occur when much mental suffering is experienced by parties who are expecting valuable articles by the mails, which either come to them in a mutilated shape or fail to reach them at all. The special agent's office is made the repository of many complaints of this kind, and some of them are peculiarly sad and touching. A young widow complains that the picture of her dead husband has been lost—it was the only copy of that loved face in the world—and with tears she tells the story of her sorrow, of the years of grief which must pass away before she can look upon his face again. An old man drifting like a half-dismantled bark toward the "farther shore," well freighted with years, in which the pleasures of his life are overbalanced by one ever present sorrow, tells the story of his brave boy who went

forth to fight his country's battles, and found a nameless grave in a strange land. He is looking for a package comprising the effects of his son, mailed to his address by a sympathizing friend, but which has failed to come to hand. And so we might go on enumerating cases were it necessary. And, although we dislike to believe that any person holding a responsible position in the employ of the department is careless or dishonest, yet we are forced to believe that such sometimes is the case. We wish to be considered the friend of all persons in the postal service who are honest and upright in the discharge of their duties; but we cannot shut our eyes or ears to the many delinquencies which are reported, saying, that the employees in the service are blameless. We know that suspicious are often entertained and complaints loudly expressed of men who are in all respects worthy and honorable. This cannot be helped in a business like ours, where so many interests are involved; and the postmasters and clerks must be peculiarly patient, knowing that, if honest and honorable, they will always be protected by the shield of the department. These must to some extent suffer for the shortcomings of others; yet the truth will be sure to appear sometime, when all doubts will be cleared up and the guilty parties will be made to suffer.

Again we say—and we trust that all postmasters will heed our words—remember that all mail matter is valuable, and handle it with the same care you would bestow upon property exclusively your own.

Bad Style of P. M.—We find a paragraph in an exchange paper to the effect that David Andrus, postmaster at Gloucester, Mo., who lately committed suicide, left a confession which has just been found. It says he murdered a returned Confederate eight years ago, and robbed him of \$10,000. He had also murdered two of his own children, and contemplated the murder of his wife. Also that he had robbed the mails ever since he has been postmaster.

In compliance with the expressed wishes of many subscribers connected with the smaller class of offices we shall, during the ensuing month, prepare plain directions as to the proper method for registering letters, giving the *modus operandi* of the system. These will be published in our next number, (November).

The large amount of space which we have been obliged to devote to official matter, the list of new post offices, &c., this month, has prevented the appearance of several interesting communications and other miscellaneous matter.

Answers to Correspondents.

[We respectfully ask the attention of our readers to all the replies published under this heading, and trust our correspondents will not confine themselves to reading the answers to their own communications. We often receive from old subscribers, questions which have been answered in very late numbers of our paper.]

Forwarding Newspapers.—C. A. F. H.—N. H.—A person after paying up the quarter's postage on his newspaper, is entitled to receive the newspaper to the end of the quarter without further payment, at the post office of the place to which he shall have removed, upon presenting his receipt to the postmaster of that place. The same rule holds good with respect to magazines and all other regular matter sent at newspaper rates.

Compensation of Postmasters.—J. W. C. L.—O. S. end others.—We need not say that the Postmaster General alone is empowered by law to regulate the salaries of postmasters, and consequently we need not add that writing to the editor of this paper for relief, where the compensation is not satisfactory, is not a useful employment of time. We are always glad to give information on all postal matters; but we must refer all who write on the subject of having their salaries increased, to official headquarters.

Exchange Papers, &c.—H. L. C. H.—The free exchange privilege of publishers is confined to a single copy of each number of their publication. 2. No charge should be made when correcting such an obvious error as the one you refer to.

Postage on Return Letters.—J. J. P.—You should collect in money the postage due on all mail matter delivered by you—including that which you collect on return dead letters.

Short Paid Foreign Postage.—E. T. S. G.—A 2-cent stamp, placed on a letter for Great Britain, which weighs over half an ounce, is entirely lost to the sender, and the letter should be sent forward as unpaid. The postage on all letters for those foreign countries, to which prepayment is optional, must be paid in full or not at all. Letters for countries, prepayment to which is compulsory, if only partly paid, must be sent to the Dead Letter Office as wholly unpaid.

"Mails Sent"—H. B. W. B.—O.—You do not seem to understand that you are to enter on your monthly sheet of mails sent only the unpaid matter which you send to other post offices for delivery. You do not need to enter the names of any offices to which you send paid matter, or unpaid matter for distribution. The sheet, used in this way, is large enough for your ordinary purposes. "R" should also be entered on the sheet with the name of the office to which you send a registered letter.

"Fractional" Stamps.—S. T. L. H.—Mass.—A whole two-cent stamp and half of another will not pay the postage on a three-cent letter.

Redirecting Letters in Transit.—H. S. L. T.—Pa.—You have no right to interfere with mail matter passing through your office, directed to another office. The letter may be addressed to (what seems to you) the wrong office, for good reasons of which you know nothing; and you should not run the risk of being charged with over-officiousness.

Withdrawing Letters.—E. H. S.—Ky.—No person should be permitted to withdraw from a post office a letter which has been deposited there for mailing, until he has given the most satisfactory proof of his right to do so. If he cannot do so, the letter must go forward. If the alleged writer produces a facsimile of the address of the letter in the same handwriting, that should be considered as sufficient proof of the truth of his statement, in ordinary cases.

"Mailed by Request"—P. M. K.—N. J.—When a letter is enclosed to you from another post office, with a request that it be mailed at your office, any fraud or deception can be frustrated by your endorsing it, "Received from A. B. of C," with a request to mail it at this office. D. E. P. M."

Lost Registered Letters.—"Money Out." B.—Mich.—The Post Office Department is not responsible for money lost in letters, registered or not, but pledges itself to use all available means for its recovery.

Five Cent Stamps.—C. M. M. M.—Iowa.—Five cent stamps are still issued by the Department.

Free Newspapers.—A. P. R. F.—Pa.—Weekly newspapers only may be sent to actual subscribers within the county where such paper is published, free. The law does not mention subscribers who reside within the same post office delivery, as that may embrace part of several counties.

Examining Printed Matter.—G. S. B. J.—N. Y.—Postmasters are authorized by law to remove the wrappers from any matter not charged with letter postage, nor franked, for the purpose of ascertaining whether by reason of an enclosure in, or writing upon, such matter, it should be charged with a higher rate of postage.

Postage from Panama.—A. H. W. C.—N. Y.—You seem to have forgotten that the Isthmus of Panama is foreign territory. The postage to or from there is ten cents.

Unpaid Transient Printed Matter, &c.—A. M. H. F.—Wis.—1. No transient unfranked printed matter should be forwarded unless the postage thereon is prepaid by stamps; but if it reaches your office unpaid, charge single rate for the postage. 2. The piece of cloth, if not intended merely as a wrapper, would subject the package to letter postage.

Death of Postmaster.—M. B. T. H.—Kan.—The Department should be notified at once of the death of the postmaster, and instructions requested on the subject you mention.

Postage to Chili and Peru.—T. J. T. B.—Pa.—The 3-cent rate to Chili prepaids both United States and foreign postage; but the 2-cent rate to Peru prepaids the United States postage only, and a further charge is made on delivery, by the Peruvian government.

Mutilated Currency by Express.—J. E. H. B.—Pa.—If the package cannot be sent by Adams' Express, send it by mail, free and registered. The use of the express for the purpose is authorized by the Treasury Department, and applies to all persons sending \$100 or over of mutilated currency. No other express is mentioned by the Treasury instructions on this subject.

Postage to Brazil.—E. P. C. K.—N. Y.—The postage to Brazil by the monthly steamship line of New York, recently established, is ten cents per half ounce or fraction thereof.

Postmasters' Salaries.—T. P. C. K.—Pa.—The first and second sections of the Act of July 1, 1864, prescribe the basis on which the salaries of postmasters are adjusted. No postmaster should accompany unpaid matter sent to an office for distribution.

Sworn Assistants.—L. C. N. J.—Pa.—A person who has once been sworn as a post office assistant or clerk, and relinquished the appointment, must be again sworn, if re-appointed.

Revenue Stamps, &c.—A. P. W. F.—N. Y.—1. Revenue stamps, cancelled or uncancelled, and other circumstances, be recognized as paying the postage on the matter to which they are affixed. 2. Letters, to be lawfully carried outside the mail, must be enclosed in a government stamped envelope of the proper denomination—the use of an adhesive postage stamp on such letters will not answer; and it makes no difference whether such letters are sealed or not. 3. The unpaid postage due on letters misdirected to your office should be entered as an overcharge on the bill when the letters are forwarded to proper destination.

Money Order Offices.—G. A. H. S.—Pa.—Letters to the Department on Money Order Business should be addressed to C. F. Macdonald, Esq., Superintendent of Money Order Offices, Washington. Postmasters at money order offices receive a commission on the amount of fees collected by them.

Franking by Members.—A. R. L.—Ill.—A member of Congress has the privilege of franking all his correspondence, whether on official business or not.

Presidential Appointments.—G. B. R. F.—O.—The names of postmasters appointed by the President are published by us monthly from the official list furnished by the Department. The name you mention may have been omitted through a clerical error.

Post-bills.—L. S. M. C.—O.—All letters on which postage is due should be accompanied by a post bill when sent to another office for delivery. Wholly unpaid domestic letters, not entitled to pass free, should be sent to the Dead Letter Office by the postmaster of the office in which they are deposited.

Removing Post Office.—J. D. L. R.—Pa.—You must address the Appointment Office on this subject.

Matrimonial Squabbles.—A Postmaster.—If a husband orders you to allow him to open and read letters deposited in the post office by his wife, you obey him, you render yourself liable to a severe punishment. Of course, you will pay no attention to any such orders.

"Removed" Subscribers, &c.—G. B. A.—O.—1. If a subscriber (club or otherwise) to a newspaper removes before the expiration of his subscription, he is entitled to receive his paper at his new address for the time in which his postage is prepaid. Give him a receipt for the postage, and let him notify the publisher of his removal, if he wishes to continue to receive his paper. 2. The Post Office Department is not bound to redeem mutilated currency. 3. We are almost tired of answering your last question; but will say once more that the unpaid postage due on letters received by you from one office, and by you forwarded to another, is to be entered as an overcharge.

Husbands and Wives' Letters.—A. Y. H.—Ill.—We know of no law or regulation authorizing a husband or a wife to obtain the other's letters without consent, express or implied. State laws do not control this matter. In cases where either a husband or wife expressly requests that the letters shall only be delivered to himself or herself, as the case may be, it seems to us clearly the duty of a postmaster to fulfill such request. If a third party, by fraud or deception, obtains the letters, report the case to a Special Agent or to the Department.

Withdrawing Letters, &c.—R. K. S. M.—Ill.—1. A letter deposited in your office for mailing may be withdrawn by direction or consent of the person who deposited the same. If applied for before it leaves your office, the mail should be delivered to the mail carrier when he is on hand to receive it, and no other person has a right to its custody. 3. An exchange paper received at your office should be delivered to the person to whom it is addressed, or to one authorized by him to receive it. Why such a person is so authorized is no concern of yours.

Sunday Mails, &c.—W. D. L. S.—N. Y.—1. A post office at which the mails are inspected, is not required to be kept open for the delivery of mail matter on Sunday; but all post offices should be supplied with a letter drop in which mail matter may be deposited for mailing at any hour of any day or night. 2. It is the duty of a mail carrier to receive and deliver his mail at the post office.

Quarterly Postage.—J. C. W.—Me.—It is not the intent of the law that a subscriber to a paper for one year shall be charged five quarters postage under any circumstances. If a subscription begins at any other time than the beginning of an official quarter, charge for the remaining fraction of that quarter, and also for the whole of the next. There charge for each official quarter thereafter in advance; and when collecting for the last official quarter, collect also for the fraction of the official quarter which was left unpaid when the first payment was made.

Miscellaneous Information.

Dead Letters.

By the instructions under the postal laws, UNPAID LETTERS are specified to be—
Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes.
Unpaid letters for foreign countries, on which prepayment is required by the regulations.
Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.
Letters misdirected to places where there are no post offices.
Civilian's letters, (domestic) wholly unpaid, (including unpaid drop letters).

Only such letters as are herein described, when deposited in any post office, are to be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office; all others must be dispatched to their destination, charged with the amount of unpaid postage.
When unmailable letters are sent to the Dead Letter Office, the specific reason therefor must be endorsed upon the envelope of each.
These instructions will be strictly followed at all post offices.

For more full instructions relating to dead letters, advertising letters, &c., examine carefully the 7th and 8th sections of the act of March 3, 1863, and the instructions attached thereto, sec. 1, Act of March 3, 1865.

Foreign Letters, &c.

The attention of postmasters is particularly called to the mode of rating postage upon letters exchanged in the mails between this country and the United Kingdom, which differs essentially from the United States domestic scale, when the weight of the packet or letter exceeds one ounce.

The scale of postage adopted for letters exchanged with the United Kingdom is as follows, viz:

One rate for a single letter not exceeding 1/2 oz. in weight.
Zero rates when over 1/2, but not exceeding 1 ounce.
Four rates when over 1, but not exceeding 2 ounces.
Six rates when over 2, but not exceeding 3 ounces; and so on, charging two additional rates for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

Thus, a letter of Great Britain, weighing 1/4 ounces, should be paid \$3.40, being five rates, or five ounces, or ten rates; but if \$2.10 (nine rates only) are paid, owing to an omission to count the fraction as a full ounce, it then goes unpaid, and the \$2.10 is lost to the writer of the letter. These letters (and all other part-paid letters to foreign countries) are treated as wholly unpaid, and the amount paid lost to the sender.

In no case should 3, 5 or 7 rates be collected upon a letter or packet addressed to the United Kingdom, the proper charges being either 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 rates, &c., according to weight.

Notwithstanding the explicit instructions of the Department on this subject, it is found that many postmasters are in the practice of charging postage upon letters and packets for the United Kingdom according to our domestic scale, (viz.: one rate for each half ounce or fraction of an ounce) and frequently prepaid, which are entirely lost to the senders, as no account is taken of short payments of postage.

Letters to foreign countries, where prepayment of postage is compulsory, when insufficiently paid are sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be opened and returned to the writers, and are thereby delayed one or two mails, and, no doubt, in many cases, causing serious loss and annoyance to the writers.

REGISTERING FOREIGN LETTERS.—Letters can be registered in the United States for Great Britain and Ireland, for Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, via Bremen or Hamburg, or via Prussian closed mail, and to Canada, in five cents to Great Britain and Ireland, twenty cents. All registered letters must be prepaid in full to destination. See "Foreign Letters," in the margin of this paper, for full information in regard to rating all foreign letters.

Our Postal Convention with the United Kingdom, provides that each country shall levy and collect its postage only on newspapers, when insufficiently paid, each whether they are sent or received. Hence, newspapers received in this country from Great Britain come prepaid the British postage only, and postmasters must be particular, in all cases, to collect the United States charge of two cents on their delivery.

CANADIAN CORRESPONDENCE.—Irregularities having arisen in respect to Canadian correspondence, these directions must hereafter be observed.

Letters addressed to Canada must be mailed to a United States Exchange Office. Letters cannot be sent direct to Post Offices in Canada.

The postage on a single letter sent from Canada is 10 cents, prepayment optional; but the whole postage must be prepaid or none. Part prepayments are not recognized. Prepayments must be made by United States postage stamps—not in money.

A postmaster may frank a letter to Canada in the same manner as to any point in the United States; but it is optional for the Canadian P. O. Department to deliver such letter free, or charge full postage on it, at its pleasure.

COLLECTIONS IN COIN.—In pursuance of the provisions of a resolution of Congress, approved March 3, 1863, all postages due on unpaid letters received from foreign countries in the mails despatched to this country from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen, or Belgium, are collected in gold or silver coin. Should, however, payment of such postage, and of the premium on a corresponding amount of coin, be tendered in United States notes, the same is to be accepted in lieu of coin. The amount to be collected in U. S. notes, (in case coin is not offered,) is marked on each letter on its arrival at U. S. Exchange Office, and is charged in the post-bills. Hence, when coin is collected at the office of delivery, the difference should be entered in the account of Mails Received as an overcharge.

The above applies exclusively to the mails received from the countries mentioned.

On out-going letters the former regulations remain unchanged, and, when prepaid, the regular rates (in currency) only are to be collected.

POST OFFICE MAIL

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of September, 1865:

Post Office.	County.	State.	Route.
Air Hill,	Montgomery,	Ky.	4,470
Berry's Ferry,	Washington,	Mo.	2,614
Brazos,	Calhoun,	Tex.	10,412
Battle Creek,	Tulsa,	Okla.	14,101
Beach Valley,	Pike,	Mo.	14,468
Beck's Mills,	Franklin,	Pa.	2,289
Conover,	Windsor,	Iowa,	10,094
Coon,	Shelby,	Iowa,	11,154
Cold Neck,	Shelby,	Iowa,	10,564
Costa,	Monroe,	La.	11,170
Campbell,	Calhoun,	Tex.	9,548
East Cornwall,	Windsor,	Iowa,	10,573
East Liberty,	Allen,	Ind.	special
Eastport,	Frederick,	Md.	11,078
Freeman,	Licking,	Ohio,	9,190
Fort Valley,	Louisa,	Pa.	10,210
Farmers Grove,	Filmore,	Minn.	13,519
Fort Perry,	Crittenden,	Ky.	9,651
Garden,	Madison,	Mo.	special
Gill's Mills,	Bath,	Me.	6,050
Groves,	Plumas,	Cal.	special
Hatfield,	Madison,	Pa.	10,418
Helen (C. H.),	Edgewood,	Mont.	14,024
Houston,	Texas,	Mo.	10,449
Iron (C. H.),	Nye,	Nev.	10,750
Johantown,	Harrison,	W. Va.	14,191
King's Ranch,	Monroe,	La.	11,170
Lalich,	Shelby,	Iowa,	3,124
Lakota,	Shelby,	Iowa,	10,573
Mosby,	Muskegon,	Wis.	13,047
Mayview,	Lafayette,	Mo.	10,554
McIntosh's Bottom,	W. Va.	14,191	
McIntosh,	Muskegon,	Wis.	13,047
North Waterborough,	York,	Maine,	126
Nahma,	Dela.	Mich.	special
Northland,	W. Va.	14,191	
Prince William,	Warren,	Pa.	4,308
Newington Junction,	Hartford,	Conn.	9,855
New Columbia,	W. Va.	14,191	
New Troy,	Berrien,	Mich.	special
Oakland,	Laclede,	Mo.	10,690
Oriskany,	Madison,	Pa.	11,170
Porter Station,	Porter,	Ind.	12,500
Phoenix,	Reynolds,	Mich.	12,711
Port Wadsworth,	Dak.	special	
Reno,	Wagon,	Pa.	2,760
Rockford,	Harrison,	W. Va.	4,191
Sherman,	St. Clair,	Ill.	11,923
Todd's Point,	Shelby,	Ill.	special
Town Ridge,	Clark,	Wash.	15,273
Trickling,	Shelby,	Ind.	12,500
Valmont,	Boulder,	Col.	14,702
Waterloo,	Sau Joquin,	Cal.	14,363

* Re-established.

DISCONTINUED.

In the annexed list will be found added, the names of the nearest offices which under the name having been discontinued, should be sent.

Name.	County and State.	Nearest Office.
Adamsville,	Frederick, Md.	Frederick.
Andover,	Montgomery, Ill.	Oceano.
Bonnet Springs,	Douglas, Col.	Denver City.
Bonsbrugh,	West Paria, Pa.	West Paria.
Convenience,	Fayette, Ohio,	Washington (C. H.).
Carthage,	Johnson, Iowa,	Iowa City.
Carthage,	Calhoun, Tex.	Carthage.
Dela,	Eaton, Mich.	LaSalle.
Frankford,	Lyon, Kan.	Benzonia.
Frederick,	Frederick, Md.	Frederick.
Forest Hill,	Lebanon, Pa.	Emporia.
Frank's Mills,	Deatur, Iowa,	Leon.
Goodwinville,	Bergen, N. J.	Hillwood.
Herman,	Dodge, Mo.	4,451
Hopewell,	Colusa, Cal.	Colusa.
Holt,	Grant, Ind.	Marion.
Jasper,	Schuyler, N. Y.	Marion.
Jefferson City,	Jefferson, Kan.	Ozarkie.
Knowlton,	Marathon, Wis.	Monroe.
Leola,	Van Wert, Ohio,	Sunex.
Lanum Springs,	Waukegan, Wis.	Alendale.
Lincoln,	Worth, Mo.	Alendale.
Linton,	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln.
Louis's Point,	Dickinson, Kan.	Junction City.
Leonia,	Steele, Minn.	Owatonna.
Lowell,	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln.
Lowell Creek,	Bartholomew, Ind.	Columbus.
Lowell's,	Harrison, W. Va.	Janelow.
McIntosh's,	White, Ill.	Durant Prairie.
McIntosh's Station,	McIntosh, Pa.	McIntosh.
McIntosh's Station,	Rockwell, Pa.	Rockwell.
Nine,	Frederick, Md.	Frederick.
Osage,	Osage, Mo.	Libon (C. H.).
Perote,	Adair, Ohio,	Savannah.
Porter,	Porter, Ind.	Porter.
Salmon,	Dorchester, Md.	Hicksburg.
South Boston,	Washington, Ind.	Salem.
Swan City,	St. Clair, Ill.	Swan City.
Sandy Hook,	Washington, Md.	Jarper's Ferry.
Strasburg,	Cook, Ill.	Hloom.
Salem,	St. Clair, Wis.	St. Clair Station.
South Sunfield,	Eaton, Mich.	Vernonville.
Sierra City,	Sierra, Cal.	Dornerville.
West Point,	Barr, Kan.	Tortville.

NAMES CHANGED.

Aima, Fairfax, Va., to Lewensville.
Amaior, Wapello, Iowa, to Blackhawk.
Cheney's Grove, McLean, Ill., to Saybrook.
Greves, Casswell, N. C., to Polkville.
Hitchcock's Hatch, El Dorado, Cal., to Green Valley.
Little Orphan, Lufkin, Cal., to Dabot.
Littell, Humboldt, Cal., to Lufkin.
Prosperity, Newberry, S. C., to Iron Lake.
Rock Farm, Bonanza, Kan., to Wolf River.
Rock Valley, Allegheny, Pa., to Maria's Valley.
Sligo, Clinton, Ohio, to Ogden.
Spring Spring, Newberry, S. C., to Silver Street.
Salem Station, Rockwell, Pa., to Rockwell.
Springdale, Harrison, Ind., to New Middleton.
West Greenville, Mercer, Pa., to Greenville.
Webber's Mills, Boone, Tenn., to Bear Creek.

Presidential Appointments.

Lynchburg, Campbell, Va., J. B. Withall.
Martinsburg, Berkeley, W. Va., Peter Zahler.
Mountain City, Gilpin, Col., Samuel A. Buell.
Racine, Racine, Wis., Maria G. Minick.
West Winfield, Litchfield, Ct., Geo. Dudley.
Yonkers, Westchester, N. Y., Loré P. Rose.

Female Postmasters Appointed.

Ashcroft, Randolph, N. C., Lizzie A. Lawrence.
Abbott's Creek, Davidson, N. C., Mrs. J. A. Raper.
Buck's Mill, Augusta, Va., Miss Susanna Chaplin.
Bridgewater, Franklin, Ind., Mrs. Hannah Galloway.
Bridgewater, Edgecombe, N. C., Sarah J. E. Smith.
Caly, Johnston, N. C., Mrs. Maria Wright Jones.
Caly, Allen, Ind., Mrs. Mary A. Delaney.
Cartersville, Cumberland, Va., Mrs. Mary E. Palmer.
Clinton, Jones, Ga., Miss Rosetta A. Wordham.
Cantonville, Kentucky, W. Va., Miss A. Bradley.
Clinton, Jones, Ga., Mrs. Emilee Worth.
Dallas, Gaston, N. C., Mrs. V. S. Fromberger.
Dumfries, Prince William, Va., Mrs. Susan B. Clark.
Donald's Station, Van Buren, Iowa, Mrs. Mary Dool.
Eray, Pocahontas, Va., Mrs. Ruth Moore.
Ely, Pocahontas, Va., Mrs. Susan B. Clark.
Elliott, Dodge, Minn., Mrs. Julia Martin.
Eaton, Chester, Pa., Miss Mary A. Ryan.
Edge Hill, King George, Va., Miss Emma C. Jones.
Franklin, Franklin, W. Va., Miss Mary H. Masters.
Frederick's Hall, Louisa, Va., Mrs. Fannie A. Talley.
Fairborough, Edgecombe, N. C., Mrs. M. A. Sprague.
Greenwood Depot, Albemarle, Va., Lucy A. Bruce.
Goshen Bridge, Rockbridge, Va., Mrs. H. A. Goodloe.
Greenville, Meriwether, Ga., Mrs. E. H. Robinson.
Inglewood, Lincoln, Ill., Mrs. Mary E. Fromberger.
Jamestown, Guilford, N. C., Mrs. Mary R. Harris.
Laurel Point, Magnolia, W. Va., Mrs. Jane Fleming.
Leachburg, Caswell, N. C., Mrs. Susan B. Taylor.
Lenoir, Caldwell, N. C., Miss Virginia Carson.
Marlin's Bottom, Pocahontas, Va., Mrs. Susan Young.
Madison, (Ch.) Madison, Va., Miss Estelle E. Schoffo.
McIntoshville, Madison, N. C., Mrs. Ann M. Parker.
McIntoshville, Rockwell, Pa., Mrs. Elizabeth C. Smith.
Newtown, Catawba, N. C., Miss Harriet E. Post.
Oak Grove, Westmoreland, Va., Mrs. Mary J. Arpint.
Prospect Hill, Caswell, N. C., Mrs. E. L. Warren.
Pleasant Dale, Hampshire, W. Va., Mrs. Mary J. Clifton.
Princeton, Prince George, Md., Mrs. Mary A. Griffin.
Rollin, Louisa, Va., Mrs. Elizabeth E. Webster.
Rush, Tuscarora, Ohio, Mrs. M. R. Insley.
South Dorset, Bennington, Vt., Mrs. N. H. Matteson.
Stooper's Bridge, Augusta, Ga., Mrs. Bettie A. Dull.
Tolerville, Louisa, Va., Mrs. Ann Maria Davis.
Vandalia, Montgomery, Ohio, Mrs. Rebecca Waldman.
Warren Plains, Warren, N. C., Mrs. Maria L. Lanekin.
Zanesville, Logan, Ohio, Miss Maria Ingram.

Re-opened.

Abbott's Creek, Davidson, N. C., Mrs. S. J. Raper.
Ashville, Humboldt, N. C., H. F. Waldenholmes.
Athens, Lumpkin, Ala., Robert O. Davis.
Aurora, Randolph, Ia., Levi Wells.
Amie City, St. Helena, La., Mrs. J. S. Rivers.
Andersonville, Sumter, Ga., Wm. A. Griffin.
Arlington, Washington, Va., Wm. G. Sandoe.
Aton, Nelson, Va., John P. Walker.
Auburn, Randolph, N. C., Lizzie A. Lawrence.
Ampers, Sumter, Ga., David H. Baxter.
Aberdeen, Monroe, Miss., John E. Meek.
Bath, Am. Bath, Va., Joseph H. Darter.
Bridgewater, Rockingham, Va., David F. Solihet.
Bridgewater, Edgecombe, N. C., Sarah J. E. Smith.

Birke's Mills, Augusta, Va., Miss Susanna Chaplin.
Bethania, Forsyth, N. C., Jacob Sowers.
Brennan, St. Mary's, La., Abiel Rosegrants.
Bryant, Rockingham, Va., Joseph B. Webb.
Brenton, Washington, Tenn., David A. Allen.
Bryan, Tazewell, West Feliciana, La., Gustave Wolf.
Creek Valley, Frederick, Va., William C. Cather.
Caldwell, Bath, Va., Henry Marshall.
Canna's Store, Rockingham, Va., Geo. W. Sandford.
Cross Run, Rockingham, Va., Joseph B. Webb.
Columbia, Washington, Tenn., David A. Allen.
Concord, Cabarrus, N. C., John Fink.
Covington, Albany, Va., Wm. M. Scott.
Covington, Rockingham, Va., B. F. Milchell.
Clayton, Johnston, N. C., Mrs. Della Wright Jones.
Canton, Sampson, N. C., J. Lee.
Columbia, Polk, N. C., J. H. Thora.
Crestville, Pontotoc, Miss., R. G. Sully.
Carrollton, Jefferson, La., E. F. Schmitt.
Clinton, Anderson, Tenn., Daniel Carpenter.
Cumberland Gap, Claiborne, Tenn., John G. Newby.
Church Grove, Knox, Tenn., James Gibbs.
Cantonville, Kentucky, W. Va., Mrs. A. Bradley.
Carter, Randolph, Ga., Samuel N. Hard.
Clinton, Jones, Ga., Miss Rosetta A. Wordham.
Cantonville, Kentucky, W. Va., Mrs. A. Bradley.
Canton Bridge, Hampshire, W. Va., O. T. O'Font.
Cairo, Guilford, N. C., Isaac H. Staley.
Cantonville, Kentucky, W. Va., Mrs. A. Bradley.
Cantonville, Kentucky, W. Va., Mrs. A. Bradley.
Cantonville, Kentucky, W. Va., Mrs. A. Bradley.
Cantonville, Kentucky, W. Va., Mrs. A. Bradley.

POST OFFICE BLANKS.

For the purpose of supplying postmasters with blanks for use in their offices, the following are the rates for the same:—
District No. 1.—Supplies blanks for the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "Wm. O. Hedden, Blank Agent, Washington, District of Columbia."
District No. 2.—Supplies blanks for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California, Nevada and Oregon, and Washington Territory. Postmasters in either of these States or Territories, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "Devery Clarke, Blank Agent, New York, N. Y."
District No. 3.—Supplies blanks for the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "A. F. Lee, Blank Agent, Buffalo, N. Y."
When the postage collected on an office amount to \$100 a year, the name of the postmaster and his office will be printed on the post bills. When the postmaster's compensation exceeds \$12 50 a quarter, the postmaster is entitled to wrapping paper and twine at the above rates.
Applications for blank registers of arrival and departure of the mails must be made direct to the Inspection Office. For special instructions, to the First Assistant Postmaster General.
Postmasters whose compensation is less than \$12 50 per quarter, can purchase a reasonable quantity of wrapping paper and twine, provided the net proceeds of the office exceed twenty dollars per year.

IMPORTANT TABLE.

SHOWING THE DIFFERENCE IN ROUTES, THE REQUIRED, AND DATES OF DEPARTURE FROM AND ARRIVAL AT LONDON, OF CHINA AND INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND OTHER MAILS.

Country.	Route.	Days of Departure.	Days of Arrival.
Australia	Perth	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
India	Calcutta	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
China	Canton	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Japan	Yokohama	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
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Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
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South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
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Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
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Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
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Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
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Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
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Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
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Africa	Cape Town	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Asia	Bombay	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Oceania	Sydney	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
North America	New York	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
South America	Buenos Aires	1st and 15th	1st and 15th
Europe	Liverpool	1	

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Vol. VI, No. 3.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1865.

WHOLE No. 63.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
November 15, 1865.

FINANCES.

Sum: The revenue of this Department for the year ended June 30, 1865, was \$14,546,158 70, and the expenditures \$13,694,728 28, leaving a surplus of \$851,430 42.

The ratio of increase of revenue was 17 per cent., and of expenditure 8 per cent., compared with previous year.

The portion of the revenues accumulated in depository and draft offices under the supervision of the Finance Office of this Department, was \$7,136,024 46; collected by the Auditor, \$2,329,855 08; and retained by postmasters for salaries and office expenses, \$5,090,279 16.

The estimated expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1867, are... \$18,678,000. The revenues estimated at 10 per cent. increase over last year... \$16,011,713.

Add amount equal to 50 per cent. of the receipts in 1860 from States lately in rebellion... 758,770. Appropriation for free matter... 700,000. Leaving a deficiency of... 1,207,457.

For this deficiency no special appropriation will be required, as the standing appropriations for the last three years, under acts of March 3, 1847, and March 3, 1851, amounting to \$2,100,000, are unexpended. It will be necessary, however, to make special appropriations from the Treasury for steamship service between San Francisco, Japan, and China, for six months, from July 1 to June 30, 1867... \$250,000. Also for steamship service between the United States and Brazil for eight months of the current year, commencing November 1... 100,000. And the whole of next year... 150,000.

STAMPS AND ENVELOPES.

The number of postage stamps issued during the year, was 387,419,455, representing... \$12,009,787 50. Stamped envelopes, 23,040,425, representing... 724,135 00. Stamped wrappers, 1,165,750, representing... 23,315 00.

Making in all... 12,847,437 50. An increase of \$1,373,108 over the previous year. The amount sold was \$12,599,727 85, being \$1,623,138 27 more than the previous year.

The introduction of stamped envelopes bearing a request for the return to the writers of unsold letters has considerably increased the sale of envelopes, and is believed to have diminished the returns to the Dead Letter Office.

Business cards are printed on envelopes without additional cost when ordered in quantities not less than one thousand for the same parties.

To encourage the purchase of request envelopes, the law should be changed so as to allow the return of such letters to the writers free of postage.

As stamped envelopes are cancelled by use, and therefore safer against fraud than those with stamps attached, it is submitted whether the Postmaster General should not be authorized in his discretion to furnish them as the separate stamps are now, without reference to the cost of manufacture.

New stamps have been adopted of the denominations of 5, 10, and 25 cents for pre-paying postage on packages of newspapers, forwarded by publishers or news-dealers under the authority of law, whereby a revenue will be secured, hitherto lost to the Department.

Under the act for the relief of postmasters who have been robbed by bodies of armed men, seventy-seven cases have been decided, and allowances made to the amount of \$4,207 75.

Appended hereto is a tabular statement exhibiting the annual receipts and expenditures of this Department from January 1, 1831, to June 30, 1865. The results are as follows:

Aggregate receipts... \$290,311,894 47. Aggregate expenditures... 241,748,881 50. Deficit... 48,563,012 97.

Averaging as follows: Receipts, \$5,806,141 87 per annum; expenditures, \$7,094,170 48 per annum; deficit, \$1,288,028 61 per annum.

CONTRACTS.

The mail service in operation on 30th June, 1865, embraced 6,012 routes, of the aggregate length of 142,330 miles, costing \$6,246,884 (exclusive of compensation to route and other agents, amounting to \$556,492 75).

Railroad... \$2,707,421. Steamboat, 13,085 miles, costing... 359,498. Celerity, &c., 105,851 miles... 3,179,865.

The aggregate miles of transportation were 57,993,494. Railroad... 24,081,568. Steamboat... 2,444,098. Celerity, &c... 31,467,828.

The cost, per mile, for transportation by rail, route was 11 cents; steamboat, 14 cents; celerity, &c., 10 cents.

The increased length of routes was 3,168 miles; of transportation, 1,678,137 miles; of cost, \$428,115.

OVERLAND SERVICE.

The overland mail service from the Missouri river to California is performed under two contracts, one from Atchison to Salt Lake City, and the other from the latter place to Folsom City. On the western division the service has been performed with reasonable regularity, while on the eastern portion it has been more or less irregular, owing, as alleged by the contractors, to high water, bad roads, and hostilities of the Indians, disappointing the expectations of the Department as to the value of the service.

RAILWAY POST OFFICES.

Railway post offices have been established on several leading railroads, and arrangements are in progress for their introduction on other lines. The result, so far, encourages the hope that the

system, by accelerating the transmission of correspondence, and lessening the number of distributing offices, will be of permanent advantage to the postal interests of the country.

The work of preparing postal maps, under the appropriation of the last Congress, is progressing favorably.

RESTORED SERVICE IN SOUTHERN STATES.

The number of routes ordered into operation in States lately in rebellion is 241; their length 18,540 miles; and compensation \$721,949; a reduction, compared with former cost of service in those States, of \$81,109 per annum. This, however, results in part from reduced service, which, if increased to the standard of frequency previous to the war, on the present rates of pay, the cost would be—

For railroad service \$550,053, instead of \$989,365 per annum. For "star" service \$266,848, instead of \$320,025 per annum.

For steamboat service, which having been increased, estimated at former number of trips, is \$53,501, instead of \$293,238 per annum, making the aggregate pay pro rata for all the services \$880,402, instead of \$1,603,058, per annum; showing an aggregate decrease pro rata of \$722,656 per annum.

Proposals have been invited by advertisement for carrying mails in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida, from January 1, 1866, to June 30, 1867.

Number for which proposals were received... 552. Number for which proposals were received... 517. Number of proposals accepted 232, at an aggregate of... \$102,714.

Number of offers made by Department... 235, at an aggregate of... 128,250. Number of proposals suspended 50, being those of certain railroads, and routes of doubtful utility.

Advertisements have been issued for carrying mails in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, from July 1, 1866, to June 30, 1867.

FOREIGN MAIL SERVICE.

The general results of the foreign service are as follows: The aggregate postages, sea, inland, and foreign, upon the correspondence exchanged with foreign countries, amounted to \$1,819,923 56; of which amount \$1,419,530 76 accrued on the mails exchanged with Great Britain, France, Prussia, Bremen, Hamburg, and Belgium; \$275,197 06 on the mails exchanged with the British North American Provinces; and \$95,200 74 on the mails transmitted to and from the West Indies, Central and South America.

The amounts of United States postage, sea and inland, were: On the correspondence exchanged, with Great Britain and the continent of Europe... \$570,456 81. The British North American Provinces... 162,485 28. And on West Indies, Central and South American mails... 95,200 74.

The cost of the United States trans-Atlantic service performed by steamships receiving the sea postage only was \$405,479 56. Of this amount \$213,339 23 was earned by the New York, Queenstown, and Liverpool (Pale) line; \$71,196 70 by the Canadian line; \$33,273 11 by the New York, Southampton, and Bremen; and \$47,169 52 by the New York, Southampton, and Hamburg lines, respectively.

The excess of collections in this country over the postages collected abroad, upon the correspondence exchanged with Great Britain and the continent of Europe... \$232,439 55. Additional articles to the United States and British postal convention have been executed, constituting Baltimore a new office of exchange on the side of the United States.

The service to Brazil, authorized by act of May 28, 1864, has been put into operation, the first steamship of the line having left New York with the mails for Brazil on the 30th of October last.

The contract for the mail steamship service to Japan and China was awarded, on the 28th of August last, to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, whose bid for the required service at the sum of \$500,000 for twelve round trips per annum, between San Francisco and Hong Kong, touching on the outward and homeward passages, to land and receive mails, at the port of Honolulu, in the Sandwich Islands, and the port of Kanagawa, in Japan, was the only one received under the advertisement of this department inviting proposals for the service.

The company are to build four-ton sea-going steamships, of from 3,500 to 4,000 tons burden each, government measurement, and commence the service on or before the first of January, 1867.

During the rebellion American steamers engaged in the carrying trade between this country and Europe were withdrawn from service, resulting to the advantage of foreign lines which continued their regular voyages; and while the subsidies granted by Great Britain to the Cunard line, and by France to the line recently established between Havre and New York, materially aided those lines, it does not follow that they would not have been self-supporting, and even remunerative, without such aid; neither has this Department information warranting the conclusion that American lines would not have been sustained during the same period under the provisions of the existing law allowing the United States postage as compensation for the service.

The subject of subsidizing American lines to British ports may be presented to Congress at its approaching session. Although in the last report the policy was commended of granting incidental aid to certain classes of new routes, as of those to Brazil and China, no modification of the system, based upon the postage earnings, was proposed in favor of established routes. The results of this system in regard to the service on new as well as old routes are encouraging. As to the new, several lines have been established since the close of the war, to which less than the postages have been allowed. As to the old, application has been

made to resume service by American steamers between New York, Southampton, and Havre, for the sea and inland postage, as heretofore. Other lines to Great Britain are projected; one of which, between Baltimore and Liverpool, is in operation; and it is believed that our citizens directly interested in ocean steam navigation will establish lines at no distant time to all the important commercial ports of Europe.

APPOINTMENTS.

The number of post offices established on 30th June, 1865, including suspended offices in southern States, was 28,882; number subject to appointment by the President, 712; by the Postmaster General, 27,170.

New offices established during the year, 566; offices discontinued, 582; changes of names and sites, 200.

Appointments made to fill vacancies caused by— Resignations... 3,575. Removal... 925. Deaths... 229. Changes of names and sites... 132. Establishment of new offices... 586.

Total appointments... 5,447.

Number of cases acted upon, 6,097. The number of offices in the late disloyal States is 8,902, of which 1,051 were reopened on November 15, 1865.

Number of route agents, 387; aggregate compensation, \$229,522. Number of local agents, 51; aggregate compensation, \$30,949. Number of special agents, 33; aggregate compensation, \$82,790. Number of baggage masters, 110; aggregate compensation, \$6,600. Number of postal railway clerks, 64; aggregate compensation, \$75,000.

LETTER-CARRIERS.

The free-delivery system has been discontinued at 22 of the smaller offices, and is now in operation in 45 of the principal cities. The number of carriers employed was 757, at an aggregate compensation of \$48,664 51.

NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING AT NEW YORK.

The attention of this Department has been again called to the subject of erecting a new post office building in the city of New York. The Chamber of Commerce of that city have recently adopted a series of resolutions recommending the measure, in which it is urged that the present building, as regards its dimensions, accessibility by the public, and accommodation in general, is inadequate for the proper management of the large and constantly increasing postal business centering at New York.

The sanitary condition of the building is not satisfactory, and is also reported by the medical officer as bad, owing to the want of sufficient room to accommodate the clerical force employed, and the impossibility of obtaining proper ventilation. If the proposed improvement can be made upon terms just to the government and the citizens of New York, this Department has no objection in commending the measure to the favor of Congress.

DEAD LETTERS.

The number of dead letters received, examined, and disposed of was 4,367,087, an increase of \$59,262 over the previous year.

The number containing money, and remitted to owners, was 42,154, with enclosures amounting to \$244,373 97. Of these, 35,268, containing \$210,954 90, were delivered, leaving 6,886 undelivered, with enclosures of the value of \$33,119 07. The number containing sums less than one dollar was 16,709, amounting to \$1,611 23, of which 12,698, containing \$3,577 62, were delivered to the writers.

The number of registered letters and packages was 3,956. The number of letters containing checks bills of exchange, deeds, and other papers of value, was 13,394, with a nominal value of 3,329,888, of which 13,746, containing \$3,246,149, were delivered, leaving unclaimed 1,658, of the value of \$83,739.

The number containing photographs, jewelry, and miscellaneous articles was 69,902. Of these, 41,500 were delivered, and 28,302 remain for disposal, or, being worthless, have been destroyed. The number of valuable letters sent out, was 107,979; an increase of 38,792 over previous year.

There were returned to public offices, including franked letters, 28,677. The number containing stamps and articles of small value was 3,289; and of unpaid and misdirected letters 164,215.

The number of ordinary dead letters returned to the writers was 1,385,599, and the number not delivered was 297,304, being about 23 per cent. of the whole. Of those not delivered, less than 4 per cent. were refused by the writers.

The number of foreign letters returned was 167,449, and the number received from foreign countries was 88,261.

In the last report the attention of Congress was called to the expediency of restoring prepaid letters to the owners free of postage. The measure is again commended, with the additional suggestion that letters be forwarded, at the request of the party addressed, from one post office to another without extra charge.

The number of letters conveyed in the mails during 1865 is estimated at 467,591,600. Of these, 4,368,087 were returned to the Dead Letter office, including 566,097 army and navy letters, the non-delivery of which was not chargeable to the postal service, they having passed beyond its control into the custody of the military and naval authorities. Deducting 1,156,401 letters returned to writers, or held as valuable, the total number lost or destroyed was 2,352,224, or one in every two hundred mailed for transmission or delivery. Fully three-fourths of the letters returned as dead fail to reach the parties addressed through faults of the writers, so that the actual losses from irregularities of service and casualties, ordinary and incidental to the service, did not exceed one in every eight hundred of the estimated number intrusted to the mails.

The returns of dead letters from cities are largely in excess of proportions based upon population. To them special efforts have been directed to secure the most efficient service, and it is believed improvements in operation, chiefly that of free delivery, will diminish the number of undelivered letters at offices in densely populated districts.

The number of applications for missing letters was 8,664, an increase of 3,552 over previous year.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

Less than 25 per cent. of advertised letters are delivered. In some of the larger offices the proportion does not exceed 15 per cent. The payment of two cents for each letter advertised involves a yearly expenditure of about \$60,000 for letters returned as dead to the department. Measures have been adopted to reduce the expense, and the advertising is now secured at one half the rate allowed by law. An obstacle to this economy is found in the law requiring the list of letters to be published in newspapers of largest circulation, which should be repealed, and the mode of advertising left to the discretion of the Postmaster General.

POSTAL MONEY-ORDER SYSTEM.

The number of offices is 419, including those in the Pacific States and Territories, and some of the principal offices in the southern States. Orders have been issued for putting into operation fifty-five additional offices. The number of money orders issued during the year was 74,277, of the value of... \$1,360,122 52. The number paid was 70,573, of the value of... \$1,291,792 22. Add amount repaid to purchasers... \$21,784 86.

Amount outstanding... 1,313,577 08.

Amount outstanding... 46,545 44.

The number of duplicate orders was 422. Of these, 355 were issued to replace originals lost in the mails; 63 invalidated by age; and 3 by illegal indorsements.

The receipts were: Fees on original orders... \$11,402 95. For duplicate orders... 71 85. Premium on exchange... 1 50. Total... \$11,536 40.

The expenditures were: Commissions to postmasters... \$2,226 27. Clerk-hire... 8,350 72. Books and stationery... 5,255 00. Premiums on drafts... 91 70. Miscellaneous, including furniture and fixtures... 2,690 68. Total... 18,584 37.

Excess of expenditures... 7,047 97.

This deficiency has been provided for by the appropriation of \$100,000 of May last, leaving unexpended \$92,922 03 applicable to any deficiency of the current year; and as the proceeds of the system will hardly equal the expenditures until it is more generally established, it is recommended that any balance remaining at the close of the present may be applied to the deficiency of the next fiscal year.

The maximum amount of money orders is \$50, which may be judiciously increased to \$50, and the restriction to sums not less than one dollar removed, retaining the present minimum fee.

Under the law, the owner of a lost certificate, to obtain a duplicate, must furnish a statement, under oath or affirmation, of its loss or destruction, and procure from the postmaster by whom it was payable a certificate that the order has not and will not be paid. These requirements work a hardship to the party, in that they compel him to pay the customary fee to the officer administering the oath, the cost of a revenue stamp affixed to that oath, and the payment of a second fee for the duplicate order. The loss of orders is seldom chargeable to any neglect of the owners, and postmasters should be authorized to administer the oath in cases of loss, and issue duplicate orders without charge.

The law would be further improved by extending the time within which the order may be paid to six months, the period now allowed of ninety days, being too limited for the necessary correspondence between distant points.

Losses have occurred to the amount of \$645 by reason of the carelessness of remitters, the burning of steamers, and other causes not chargeable to the system.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Balances were due from southern postmasters at the outbreak of the rebellion amounting to \$368,027 87, few of which have been paid. Means are being employed, through courts and other agencies, to collect the amounts due to the government.

The closing of the war brought with it the necessity of restoring the postal service in the southern States. No time was lost in offering to citizens of those States all the facilities which they were in a position to accept. Special agents were appointed to assist in the work of restoration. The provisional governors were notified of the readiness of the Department to appoint postmasters upon their recommendation. They were also advised of its desire to put the mails on all the railroads within their respective States as soon as reformed by them that the roads were ready to carry them, and the companies proper parties to intrust with their transportation. All applications for carrying the mails on land and water routes have been considered, and the service ordered at such rates of compensation as could be agreed upon.

Anticipating that the revenues from mail service in the south would be for some time considerably less than they were previous to the war, the necessity of reduced rates of compensation, and in many instances of reduced service, was obvious. This required new classifications of rates of payment to rail and water, and modifications of pay and service on land routes. Considerable reductions have been made in the maximum compensation to the first two classes of service, as the tables hereto appended exhibit. The reasonableness of these reductions has been generally appreciated by the contractors, and the mails are being transported by rail under contracts till the expiration of the current fiscal year, and by water till the 30th of June, 1869.

Greater difficulties have been encountered on the land routes, although the maximum rates adjusted by the tables hereto appended exhibit, are equal to the average of compensation allowed previous to the rebellion, except on certain routes where the former pay was excessive, and has been reduced.

Although the service has been restored in each of the southern States, it is not so general as the Department has desired, and the wants of the citizens require, because of the difficulty of procuring contractors and postmasters who can take the oath prescribed by the acts of July 2,

1862, and March 3, 1863, requiring uniform loyalty to the government during the rebellion as the condition of holding office and for the conveying of the mails.

The Post Office Department was established on the principle of defraying its expenses out of its revenues. Its financial history shows that its annual receipts have rarely equalled its expenditures. During the last year there was a surplus of revenue, a result the more gratifying because no part of the appropriation for franked matter has been drawn upon. But so favorable a result cannot be anticipated for the current year, in consequence of the expenditures incident to restoring the service in the southern States, which promise proportionately small receipts, because of the confused condition of the commercial and industrial interests within those States. It is hoped, however, that this unhappy condition will be but temporary, and that under their improved auspices as free communities, their contributions to the postal revenues will soon exceed any in their past history.

Although, in view of the financial wants of the government and the large demand for postal expenditures in the southern States, this Department could but deem unwise any present reduction of domestic postage, it appreciates the duty of the government to lessen all postage rates to the minimum of not preventing the Department to support itself from its revenues, and it perceives no reason why, in a few years, with little faith in the vitality of free institutions and the resources of a free people, that of the increase of postal correspondence, as shown by the postal revenues, is not the least interesting and suggestive. The maximum annual receipts of this Department previous to the rebellion from all the States was \$8,518,067 40, which was exceeded in the sum of \$6,038,091 30 by the receipts of the last year from the loyal States alone. The revenues during the past four years amounted to \$46,158,022 57, an average of \$11,614,505 74 per annum. Compared with the receipts of the four years immediately preceding, which amounted to \$32,322,640 73, the annual average increase of revenue was \$3,533,845 56, which has not resulted from any considerable additions to the service. The ratio of receipts to expenditures having been larger than, with few exceptions, at any previous period. A proper regard to economy in administration, aided by larger contributions from all the States of the Union, will enable the Department to increase its usefulness from year to year in all of its legitimate functions. But it must not be overlooked that the ability to fully perform its mission as the postal agent of the government is greatly impaired by the burdens imposed by the franking privilege, and expensive service upon routes established for other than postal purposes, the receipts from which are largely unremunerative. However much the establishment of these routes is to be commended for national objects in which regard they command the approval of the country, it is not possible to see upon what principle they are wholly chargeable to the postal fund, which belongs to those by whom it has been contributed, and is pledged to meet the wants of the postal service.

The subjoined table illustrates the misapplication of the postal fund:

Routes.	Pay.	Receipts.	Excess of Pay.
Salt Lake City to Folsom	\$85,000 00	\$23,034 44	\$726,065 56
Atchison to Salt Lake	35,000 00	29,086 43	29,086 43
Kansas City to Santa Fe	25,000 00	24,791 67	180,208 33
The Routes to Portland	180,000 00	5,000 00	180,208 33
Total	\$1,136,744 00	\$60,923 45	\$1,136,820 55

These are instructive facts, showing how largely the revenues of this Department are drawn upon for general objects of administration not properly chargeable to the postal fund. If to this be added the revenue which would accrue upon "free matter," charged with existing rates of postage, less the sum annually appropriated therefor, it is estimated that not less than two millions of dollars per annum are lost to the Department, preventing an enlargement of mail accommodations to that extent in those States from which the postal revenues are mainly derived.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLIAM DENNISON,
Postmaster General.

THE PRESIDENT.

UNITED STATES MAIL

Reopened.

Mount Adams, Arkansas, Ark., N. B. Price.
Saint Charles, Arkansas, Ark., J. H. Hall.
Lacombe, Florida, Fla., H. B. Wilson.
Washington, Hempstead, Ark., H. W. Wilson.
Augusta, Jackson, Ark., H. M. Couch.
Grand Island, Butler, Ala., J. S. Shubly.
Askew, Phillips, Ark., James Clark.
Clarendon, Monroe, Ark., N. B. Bower.
White River, Deale, Ark., J. J. J. J.
Devall's Bluff, Preter, Ark., W. B. Windsor.
Crockett's Bluff, Arkansas, Ark., W. A. Inman.
Geola, Mississippi, Ark., J. B. Murray.
Waterproof, Arkansas, Ark., J. B. Wilson.
Pecan Grove, Carroll, La., Henry Goodrich.
Clinton, East Feliciana, La., J. G. Darmond.
Independence, Livingston, La., W. B. Wilson.
Ponchartraine, Englewood, La., T. M. Akers.
Charlottesville, Saint Mary's, La., J. G. Washington.
Abbeville, Vermillion, La., David Frank.
Ganghigh, Saint Landry, La., Julius Wusthoff.
Plakka, Putnam, Fla., E. B. Haddock.
Archer, Abolona, Fla., Mrs. E. M. Filitt.
Mountain Cove, Mayotte, W. Va., George Hunt.
Mayaville, Greentree, W. Va., W. D. Spencer.
Van Cleveville, Berkeley, W. Va., W. M. Van Cleave.
Clay, C. H., Clay, W. Va., J. Wheeler.
Sweet Springs, Monroe, W. Va., C. A. Jones.
Salt Spring Springs, Monroe, W. Va., E. B. Howell.
Spring Springs, Appomattox, Va., John Hibb.
Chancelville, Buchanan, Va., Robert A. Baldwin.
Broad Run, Loudoun, Va., Harriet A. Peacock.
Green Mount, Rockingham, Va., M. H. Howman.
Bowersville, Rockingham, Va., John Sigler.
Eden, Rockingham, Va., Noah Shank.
Timberville, Rockingham, Va., Adam Sickleton.
Bonaca, Roanoke, Va., Sarah Johnson.
Mitchell's Station, Culpeper, Va., Fannie Taylor.
Lawrenceville, Brunswick, Va., Susan E. Rawlings.
Guineys, Carolina, Va., C. E. Taylor.
Freeland, Norfolk, Va., Luther J. Powell.
Genito, Powhatan, Va., Joseph A. Gates.
Rochele, Madison, Va., Anne O. Smith.
Buckland, King George, Va., W. S. Weaver.
Hanover, King George, Va., Sallie A. Minor.
Broadway, Rockingham, Va., John Deady.
Buckland, Ft. William, Va., Geo. W. Branner.
Hicksford, Greeneville, Va., Susan J. Browne.
Clerk Depot, Halifax, Va., J. B. Adams.
Bowling Green, Caroline, Va., La Fayette De Lurie.
Lake Drummond, Norfolk, Va., W. E. Douglas.
Hermatine, Augusta, Va., Mrs. W. Kennedy.
Dix Run, Fancypine, Va., B. Hunter.
Willow Bank, Nelson, Va., Josiah Carroll.
Melrose, Rockingham, Va., Ruby Arnoldout.
Hickson, Rockingham, Va., Mrs. C. H. Clasterbrook.
Coco's Store, Rockingham, Va., Wm. K. Gally.
Dayton, Rockingham, Va., Samuel Hedrick.
Shenandoah Depot, Page, Va., James J. Kite.
Alcona Creek, Amherst, Va., James H. Mitchell.
Gishie's Mills, Roanoke, Va., Miss Naomi J. Fox.
Steele's Tavern, Augusta, Va., Wm. Thomas.
Cabin Point, Surry, Va., John J. Deal.
Dranesville, Fairfax, Va., William Dyer.
La Fayette, Montgomery, Va., Mrs. M. E. Eakin.
Franklin Depot, Loudoun, Va., Virginia L. Holman.
Annandale, Fairfax, Va., J. W. Wadsworth.
Bath, C. H., Bath, Va., James Stewart.
Mifflord, Caroline, Va., Mrs. J. A. Lantry.
Covington, Alleghany, Va., Mrs. Joanna Lantry.
Pamplin's Depot, Prince Edward, Va., Mrs. Sarah M. Burruss.
Cliffside, Rockbridge, Va., Mrs. Martha A. Gallo-
way.
Pittsylvania, C. H., Pittsylvania, Va., Samuel E. Mody.
Gatahoro, Frederick, Va., James A. Newcomb.
Mossing Ford, Charlotte, Va., Miss Susan S. Skelton.
Seven Islands, Fluvanna, Va., Martin S. E. Whitler.
The Plains, Fannie, Albemarle, Va., Wm. G. Shaw.
Big Lick, Roanoke, Va., John A. Sowers.
Steinburg, Halifax, Va., John R. Carrington.
White Pine, Giles, Va., Mrs. Elizabeth Summit.
Abbot's Creek, Davidson, N. C., Levi Tech.
Reems Creek, Buncombe, N. C., Mary E. McClure, de-
ceased.
Mockie Hill, Davie, N. C., Thomas L. Leslie, de-
ceased.
Marshall, Madison, N. C., Eliza Tweed.
Sedges Garden, Forsyth, N. C., James P. Waggoner.
Curtis' Mills, Albemarle, N. C., Mrs. G. G. Shaw.
Rock Creek, Alamance, N. C., Christopher C. Curtis.
Joyner's Depot, Edgecombe, N. C., G. W. Griffin.
Trinity College, Johnston, N. C., Mrs. G. G. Shaw.
Bloomington, Guilford, N. C., Winship M. Wilson.
Shaw's Middle Creek, N. C., J. B. Strain.
Shaw's Middle Creek, N. C., Mrs. Ann E. Hess.
Barnesville, Fike, Ga., A. H. Barnes.
Newman, Coweta, Ga., Mrs. N. Miller.
Waltonville, Liberty, Ga., J. N. Miller.
Eden, Etowah, Ga., Milton Humphrey.
Hogansville, Troup, Ga., C. E. Spenser Harvey.
Fairburn, Campbell, Ga., J. Spencer Harvey.
St Cloud, Heard, Ga., T. J. Bird.
Palmetto, Campbell, Ga., L. E. Griffith.
Kingsport, Cass, Ga., W. B. Smith.
Kingsport, Cass, Ga., W. B. Smith.
Albion, Cass, Ga., John Hooper.
Franklin, Heard, Ga., W. M. R. Walls.
Tunnel Hill, Wilkes, Ga., Mrs. M. G. Shaw.
Yacottville, Fayette, Ga., L. B. Briggs.
Quinnaw, Brooks, Ga., Jesse T. Harris.
Tilton, Whitehall, Ga., Wm. E. Scott.
Trenton, Inde, Ga., J. P. Rogers.
Morgan, Calhoun, Ga., Wm. G. Pierce.
Gainsville, Hall, Ga., Joseph R. Boone.
Bronsborough, Hall, Ga., Joseph R. Boone.
Darien, McIntosh, Ga., A. De Lorme.
Yellow River, Gwinnett, Ga., Lewis Mash.
Brunswick, Glynn, Ga., Wm. E. Scott.
Stone Mountain, DeKalb, Ga., Geo. F. Bradley.
Vienna, Dooly, Ga., Wm. H. Davies.
Roosevelt, Cobb, Ga., Thos. D. Adams.
Fowler Springs, Cobb, Ga., Andrew J. Kiser.
Camden, Forsyth, Ga., James R. Knox.
Macon, Wilkes, Ga., Mrs. M. G. Shaw.
Alpharetta, Milton, Ga., O. P. Skelton.
Dallas, Fannin, Ga., S. O. Skelton.
Hawkinsville, Wilkes, Ga., C. M. Bozeman.
Warrenton, Warren, Ga., James Cody.
Bear Creek, Henry, Ga., Thos. J. Skelton.
Socoll Circle, Wilkes, Ga., W. M. Colton.
Miler, Fike, Ga., Wm. J. Howe.
Lexington, Oglethorpe, Ga., Edmund C. Shakeford.
Holmesville, Appling, Ga., Philip Kettner.
Washington, Wilkes, Ga., Mrs. Carolus B. Robinson.
Crawford, Oglethorpe, Ga., Mrs. Mary A. Hargrove.
Milen, Burke, Ga., Mrs. M. G. Shaw.
Lythonia, DeKalb, Ga., Jas. H. Born.
Blackley, Early, Ga., Jas. B. Brown.
Belair, Richmond, Ga., Geo. H. Eton.
Dayton, Etowah, Ga., Geo. H. Eton.
Bowden, Carroll, Ga., Thos. S. Garrison.
Lombard, Columbia, Ga., J. H. Harris.
Loverly's Station, Clayton, Ga., Mrs. Miriam A. Stripling.
Floyd Springs, Floyd, Ga., Miss E. S. Lough.
Shilohborough, Wilkes, Ga., F. S. Sprout.
Colapachee, Monroe, Ga., Samuel Storer.
Rudolphe, Morgan, Ga., Thomas Treadwell.
Union Point, Oglethorpe, Ga., J. J. Watson.
Van Wert, Fike, Ga., Josiah C. York, Jr.
Secoba, Kemp, Miss, J. R. Dunlap.
Morton, Scott, Miss, H. H. Pond.
Belton's Depot, Hinds, Miss, Beth H. Pond.
Star-ville, Oktibeha, Miss, Middleton R. Owen.
Fivelley's Cross Road, Hinds, Miss, James A. Harris.
Bantalaiba, De Soto, Miss, J. S. Jackson.
Kosciusko, Attala, Miss, Ebenezer M. Wells.
Gochico, Natchez, Miss, Z. C. Gaskins.
Pearce Corinth, Ziebaching, Miss, J. G. Gibson.
Eastport, Fiskeburging, Miss, John B. Alexander.
Shilohville, De Soto, Miss, J. S. Jackson.
Vernonia, Warren, Tenn, Michael R. Campbell.
Reatovon, Greene, Tenn, Michael R. Campbell.
Concord, Knox, Tenn, Michael R. Campbell.
Clingsport, Sullivan, Tenn, A. Hoffman.
Franklin College, Davidson, Tenn, Tolbert Fanning.
Port Royal, Montgomery, Tenn, J. J. Lee.
Rockwood, Montgomery, Tenn, W. E. Lewis.
Rosebery, Knox, Tenn, Ekanah H. Shippe.
Green Hill, Wilson, Tenn, Chas. O. Pratt.
Ranning Water, Marion, Tenn, Chas. O. Pratt.
Union Depot, Sullivan, Tenn, Geo. W. Allison.
Lynchburg, Lincoln, Tenn, Geo. W. Allison.
Readyville, Rutherford, Tenn, Wm. R. Campbell.
Greenwood, Shelby, Tenn, Chas. Collins.
Focalotches, Hardeman, Tenn, Alex. Ransay.
Moscow, Fayette, Tenn, J. S. Jackson.
Sparta, White, Tenn, Mrs. Margaret L. Smith.
Smithville, DeKalb, Tenn, Jas. H. Williams.
Woodland, Montgomery, Tenn, Jas. H. Williams.
Nicolesville, McMinn, Tenn, Thos. Epperson.
Decker, Franklin, Tenn, Wm. Wood.
Nickajack, Marion, Tenn, Christo. M. Johnson.
Red Bridge, Hawkins, Tenn, James Wright.
Cowan, Franklin, Tenn, John Shull.
Anderson, Franklin, Tenn, J. H. Williams.
Spring Hill, Madison, Tenn, C. W. McKessack.
Chapel Hill, Washington, Tenn, Wm. M. Sherman.
Cameron, Miami, Tenn, Mrs. Harriet.
Sabine Pass, Jackson, Tenn, R. D. Keith.
Boonville, Brazos, Tex, Benjamin Hubert.
Richmond, Fort Bend, Tex, David Ferguson.
Independence, Independence, Tex, John McKnight.
Butler, Choctaw, Ala, Thaddeus J. Keeton.
Decatur, Morgan, Ala, Thomas Felt.
Vatermore Springs, Morgan, Ala, J. J. Giers.
Somerville, Morgan, Ala, J. J. Giers.
Perote, Pike, Ala, Mrs. M. D. Fowler.
Onsetta, Chambers, Ala, M. D. Fowler.
Fratville, Attala, Ala, Lorenzo C. Wilder.
Long Island, Jackson, Ala, D. C. Whiting.
Cordland, Lawrence, Ala, A. D. Jones.
Cincinnati, Barbour, Ala, Spruill and Chicago, Ill, St.
Gordon, Cherokee, Ala, Mrs. Mary Jane Ray.
Gaylesville, Cherokee, Ala, N. M. McDonald.
Cedar Bluff, Cherokee, Ala, Charles L. Layton.
Centre, Cherokee, Ala, L. N. Echols.
Sterling, Cherokee, Ala, John Hardman.

POST OFFICE BLANKS.

The agencies for supplying postmasters with blanks are as follows:
District No. 1.—Supplies blanks for the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "Wm. O. Hedden," Blank Agent, Washington, District of Columbia.
District No. 2.—Supplies blanks for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, California, Nevada and Oregon, and C. Robinson, E. Kinard, Williamson, Anderson, S. C. Crawford, P. Pick-
Crownell Thurston, Chester, S. C. E. E. Cornwell.
District No. 3.—Supplies blanks for the States of Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "Beverly Clarke, Blank Agent, New York, N. Y."
District No. 4.—Supplies blanks for the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Postmasters in either of these States, wanting blanks of any kind, should address "A. Lee, Blank Agent, Buffalo, N. Y."

Miscellaneous Information.

Dead Letters.
By the instructions under the postal law, UN-MAILABLE LETTERS are specified to be—
Letters attempted to be sent with stamps previously used, or stamps cut from stamped envelopes.
Unpaid letters for foreign countries, on which prepayment is required by the laws of the country.
Letters not addressed, or so badly addressed that their destination cannot be known.
Letters misdirected to places where there are no post-offices.
Civilian's letters, (domestic) wholly unpaid, (including unpaid drop letters).
Only such letters as are herein described are, when deposited in the post office, to be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office; all others must be dispatched to their destination, charged with the amount of unpaid postage.
When unmailable letters are sent to the Dead Letter Office, the specific reason therefor must be endorsed upon the envelope of each.
These instructions will be strictly followed at all post-offices.
For more full instructions relating to dead letters, advertising letters, examine carefully the 1st and 10th Sections of the Act of 3d March, 1863, and the instructions attached thereto, Sec. 1, Act of March 3, 1865.

Foreign Letters, &c.

RULE FOR RATING LETTERS TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.
The attention of postmasters is particularly called to the mode of rating postage on letters, exchanged in the mails between this country and the United Kingdom, which differs essentially from the United States domestic scale, (where the weight of the paper or letter excesses one ounce).
The scale of postage is as follows for letters exchanged with the United Kingdom as follows, viz.:
One rate for a single letter not exceeding 1/2 oz. in weight.
Two rates when over 1/2, but not exceeding 1 ounce.
Four rates when over 1, but not exceeding 2 ounces.
Six rates when over 2, but not exceeding 3 ounces; and so on, charging two additional rates for each additional ounce or fraction thereof.
Thus, a letter to Great Britain, weighing 4 1/2 ounces, should be paid \$2.40, being chargeable as five ounces, or ten rates; but if \$2.16 (nine rates only) are paid, owing to an omission to count the fraction as full ounce, it then goes as unpaid, and the \$2.16 is sent to the writer of the letter. These letters (and all other part paid letters to foreign countries) are treated as wholly unpaid, and the amount paid lost to the sender.
In no case should 3, 5 or 7 rates be collected upon a letter or packet addressed to the United Kingdom, the proper charges being either 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 rates, &c., according to weight.
Notwithstanding the explicit instructions of the Department on this subject, it is found that many postmasters are in the practice of charging postage upon letters and packets sent to foreign countries according to our domestic scale, (viz.: one rate for each half ounce or fraction of half an ounce) and thus insufficient amounts of postage are frequently prepaid, which are entirely lost to the senders, as no account is taken of short payments of postage.
Letters to foreign countries, where prepayment of postage is compulsory, when insufficiently paid are sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be opened and returned to the writers, and are thereby delayed one or two mails, and, no doubt, in many cases, causing serious loss and annoyance to the writers.
REGISTERING FOREIGN LETTERS.—Letters can be registered in the United States for Great Britain and Ireland, for Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen, Hamburg, or Prussian closed mail, and to Canada, is five cents to Great Britain and Ireland, and are the only registered letters must be prepaid in full to destination. See "Foreign Miscellany" on fourth page of this paper, for full information in regard to rating all foreign letters.
Our Postal Convention with the United Kingdom, provides that each country shall levy and collect its postage only, on newspapers, at the rate of two cents each, whether they are sent or received. The postage on newspapers received from Great Britain or Ireland, and postmasters must be particular, in all cases, to collect the United States charge of two cents on their delivery.

ADVERTISING.

Advertisements for the United States Mail are accepted for publication in the following manner:—
For one insertion, 10 cents per line.
For two insertions, 18 cents per line.
For three insertions, 25 cents per line.
For four insertions, 32 cents per line.
For five insertions, 40 cents per line.
For six insertions, 48 cents per line.
For seven insertions, 56 cents per line.
For eight insertions, 64 cents per line.
For nine insertions, 72 cents per line.
For ten insertions, 80 cents per line.
For eleven insertions, 88 cents per line.
For twelve insertions, 96 cents per line.
For thirteen insertions, 104 cents per line.
For fourteen insertions, 112 cents per line.
For fifteen insertions, 120 cents per line.
For sixteen insertions, 128 cents per line.
For seventeen insertions, 136 cents per line.
For eighteen insertions, 144 cents per line.
For nineteen insertions, 152 cents per line.
For twenty insertions, 160 cents per line.
For twenty-one insertions, 168 cents per line.
For twenty-two insertions, 176 cents per line.
For twenty-three insertions, 184 cents per line.
For twenty-four insertions, 192 cents per line.
For twenty-five insertions, 200 cents per line.
For twenty-six insertions, 208 cents per line.
For twenty-seven insertions, 216 cents per line.
For twenty-eight insertions, 224 cents per line.
For twenty-nine insertions, 232 cents per line.
For thirty insertions, 240 cents per line.
For thirty-one insertions, 248 cents per line.
For thirty-two insertions, 256 cents per line.
For thirty-three insertions, 264 cents per line.
For thirty-four insertions, 272 cents per line.
For thirty-five insertions, 280 cents per line.
For thirty-six insertions, 288 cents per line.
For thirty-seven insertions, 296 cents per line.
For thirty-eight insertions, 304 cents per line.
For thirty-nine insertions, 312 cents per line.
For forty insertions, 320 cents per line.
For forty-one insertions, 328 cents per line.
For forty-two insertions, 336 cents per line.
For forty-three insertions, 344 cents per line.
For forty-four insertions, 352 cents per line.
For forty-five insertions, 360 cents per line.
For forty-six insertions, 368 cents per line.
For forty-seven insertions, 376 cents per line.
For forty-eight insertions, 384 cents per line.
For forty-nine insertions, 392 cents per line.
For fifty insertions, 400 cents per line.
For fifty-one insertions, 408 cents per line.
For fifty-two insertions, 416 cents per line.
For fifty-three insertions, 424 cents per line.
For fifty-four insertions, 432 cents per line.
For fifty-five insertions, 440 cents per line.
For fifty-six insertions, 448 cents per line.
For fifty-seven insertions, 456 cents per line.
For fifty-eight insertions, 464 cents per line.
For fifty-nine insertions, 472 cents per line.
For sixty insertions, 480 cents per line.
For sixty-one insertions, 488 cents per line.
For sixty-two insertions, 496 cents per line.
For sixty-three insertions, 504 cents per line.
For sixty-four insertions, 512 cents per line.
For sixty-five insertions, 520 cents per line.
For sixty-six insertions, 528 cents per line.
For sixty-seven insertions, 536 cents per line.
For sixty-eight insertions, 544 cents per line.
For sixty-nine insertions, 552 cents per line.
For seventy insertions, 560 cents per line.
For seventy-one insertions, 568 cents per line.
For seventy-two insertions, 576 cents per line.
For seventy-three insertions, 584 cents per line.
For seventy-four insertions, 592 cents per line.
For seventy-five insertions, 600 cents per line.
For seventy-six insertions, 608 cents per line.
For seventy-seven insertions, 616 cents per line.
For seventy-eight insertions, 624 cents per line.
For seventy-nine insertions, 632 cents per line.
For eighty insertions, 640 cents per line.
For eighty-one insertions, 648 cents per line.
For eighty-two insertions, 656 cents per line.
For eighty-three insertions, 664 cents per line.
For eighty-four insertions, 672 cents per line.
For eighty-five insertions, 680 cents per line.
For eighty-six insertions, 688 cents per line.
For eighty-seven insertions, 696 cents per line.
For eighty-eight insertions, 704 cents per line.
For eighty-nine insertions, 712 cents per line.
For ninety insertions, 720 cents per line.
For ninety-one insertions, 728 cents per line.
For ninety-two insertions, 736 cents per line.
For ninety-three insertions, 744 cents per line.
For ninety-four insertions, 752 cents per line.
For ninety-five insertions, 760 cents per line.
For ninety-six insertions, 768 cents per line.
For ninety-seven insertions, 776 cents per line.
For ninety-eight insertions, 784 cents per line.
For ninety-nine insertions, 792 cents per line.
For one hundred insertions, 800 cents per line.
For one hundred and one insertions, 808 cents per line.
For one hundred and two insertions, 816 cents per line.
For one hundred and three insertions, 824 cents per line.
For one hundred and four insertions, 832 cents per line.
For one hundred and five insertions, 840 cents per line.
For one hundred and six insertions, 848 cents per line.
For one hundred and seven insertions, 856 cents per line.
For one hundred and eight insertions, 864 cents per line.
For one hundred and nine insertions, 872 cents per line.
For one hundred and ten insertions, 880 cents per line.
For one hundred and eleven insertions, 888 cents per line.
For one hundred and twelve insertions, 896 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirteen insertions, 904 cents per line.
For one hundred and fourteen insertions, 912 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifteen insertions, 920 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixteen insertions, 928 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventeen insertions, 936 cents per line.
For one hundred and eighteen insertions, 944 cents per line.
For one hundred and nineteen insertions, 952 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty insertions, 960 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty-one insertions, 968 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty-two insertions, 976 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty-three insertions, 984 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty-four insertions, 992 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty-five insertions, 1000 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty-six insertions, 1008 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty-seven insertions, 1016 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty-eight insertions, 1024 cents per line.
For one hundred and twenty-nine insertions, 1032 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty insertions, 1040 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty-one insertions, 1048 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty-two insertions, 1056 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty-three insertions, 1064 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty-four insertions, 1072 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty-five insertions, 1080 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty-six insertions, 1088 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty-seven insertions, 1096 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty-eight insertions, 1104 cents per line.
For one hundred and thirty-nine insertions, 1112 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty insertions, 1120 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty-one insertions, 1128 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty-two insertions, 1136 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty-three insertions, 1144 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty-four insertions, 1152 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty-five insertions, 1160 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty-six insertions, 1168 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty-seven insertions, 1176 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty-eight insertions, 1184 cents per line.
For one hundred and forty-nine insertions, 1192 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty insertions, 1200 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty-one insertions, 1208 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty-two insertions, 1216 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty-three insertions, 1224 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty-four insertions, 1232 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty-five insertions, 1240 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty-six insertions, 1248 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty-seven insertions, 1256 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty-eight insertions, 1264 cents per line.
For one hundred and fifty-nine insertions, 1272 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty insertions, 1280 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty-one insertions, 1288 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty-two insertions, 1296 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty-three insertions, 1304 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty-four insertions, 1312 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty-five insertions, 1320 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty-six insertions, 1328 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty-seven insertions, 1336 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty-eight insertions, 1344 cents per line.
For one hundred and sixty-nine insertions, 1352 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy insertions, 1360 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy-one insertions, 1368 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy-two insertions, 1376 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy-three insertions, 1384 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy-four insertions, 1392 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy-five insertions, 1400 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy-six insertions, 1408 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy-seven insertions, 1416 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy-eight insertions, 1424 cents per line.
For one hundred and seventy-nine insertions, 1432 cents per line.
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For one hundred and eighty-two insertions, 1456 cents per line.
For one hundred and eighty-three insertions, 1464 cents per line.
For one hundred and eighty-four insertions, 1472 cents per line.
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For one hundred and eighty-six insertions, 1488 cents per line.
For one hundred and eighty-seven insertions, 1496 cents per line.
For one hundred and eighty-eight insertions, 1504 cents per line.
For one hundred and eighty-nine insertions, 1512 cents per line.
For one hundred and ninety insertions, 1520 cents per line.
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For one hundred and ninety-two insertions, 1536 cents per line.
For one hundred and ninety-three insertions, 1544 cents per line.
For one hundred and ninety-four insertions, 1552 cents per line.
For one hundred and ninety-five insertions, 1560 cents per line.
For one hundred and ninety-six insertions, 1568 cents per line.
For one hundred and ninety-seven insertions, 1576 cents per line.
For one hundred and ninety-eight insertions, 1584 cents per line.
For one hundred and ninety-nine insertions, 1592 cents per line.
For two hundred insertions, 1600 cents per line.
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For two hundred and two insertions, 1616 cents per line.
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For two hundred and nine insertions, 1672 cents per line.
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For two hundred and eleven insertions, 1688 cents per line.
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For two hundred and twenty-one insertions, 1768 cents per line.
For two hundred and twenty-two insertions, 1776 cents per line.
For two hundred and twenty-three insertions, 1784 cents per line.
For two hundred and twenty-four insertions, 1792 cents per line.
For two hundred and twenty-five insertions, 1800 cents per line.
For two hundred and twenty-six insertions, 1808 cents per line.
For two hundred and twenty-seven insertions, 1816 cents per line.
For two hundred and twenty-eight insertions, 1824 cents per line.
For two hundred and twenty-nine insertions, 1832 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty insertions, 1840 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty-one insertions, 1848 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty-two insertions, 1856 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty-three insertions, 1864 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty-four insertions, 1872 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty-five insertions, 1880 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty-six insertions, 1888 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty-seven insertions, 1896 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty-eight insertions, 1904 cents per line.
For two hundred and thirty-nine insertions, 1912 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty insertions, 1920 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty-one insertions, 1928 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty-two insertions, 1936 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty-three insertions, 1944 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty-four insertions, 1952 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty-five insertions, 1960 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty-six insertions, 1968 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty-seven insertions, 1976 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty-eight insertions, 1984 cents per line.
For two hundred and forty-nine insertions, 1992 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty insertions, 2000 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty-one insertions, 2008 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty-two insertions, 2016 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty-three insertions, 2024 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty-four insertions, 2032 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty-five insertions, 2040 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty-six insertions, 2048 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty-seven insertions, 2056 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty-eight insertions, 2064 cents per line.
For two hundred and fifty-nine insertions, 2072 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty insertions, 2080 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty-one insertions, 2088 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty-two insertions, 2096 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty-three insertions, 2104 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty-four insertions, 2112 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty-five insertions, 2120 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty-six insertions, 2128 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty-seven insertions, 2136 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty-eight insertions, 2144 cents per line.
For two hundred and sixty-nine insertions, 2152 cents per line.
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For two hundred and seventy-two insertions, 2176 cents per line.
For two hundred and seventy-three insertions, 2184 cents per line.
For two hundred and seventy-four insertions, 2192 cents per line.
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For two hundred and seventy-six insertions, 2208 cents per line.
For two hundred and seventy-seven insertions, 2216 cents per line.
For two hundred and seventy-eight insertions, 2224 cents per line.
For two hundred and seventy-nine insertions, 2232 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty insertions, 2240 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty-one insertions, 2248 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty-two insertions, 2256 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty-three insertions, 2264 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty-four insertions, 2272 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty-five insertions, 2280 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty-six insertions, 2288 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty-seven insertions, 2296 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty-eight insertions, 2304 cents per line.
For two hundred and eighty-nine insertions, 2312 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety insertions, 2320 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety-one insertions, 2328 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety-two insertions, 2336 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety-three insertions, 2344 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety-four insertions, 2352 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety-five insertions, 2360 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety-six insertions, 2368 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety-seven insertions, 2376 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety-eight insertions, 2384 cents per line.
For two hundred and ninety-nine insertions, 2392 cents per line.
For three hundred insertions, 2400 cents per line.
For three hundred and one insertions, 2408 cents per line.
For three hundred and two insertions, 2416 cents per line.
For three hundred and three insertions, 2424 cents per line.
For three hundred and four insertions, 2432 cents per line.
For three hundred and five insertions, 2440 cents per line.
For three hundred and six insertions, 2448 cents per line.
For three hundred and seven insertions, 2456 cents per line.
For three hundred and eight insertions, 2464 cents per line.
For three hundred and nine insertions, 2472 cents per line.
For three hundred and ten insertions, 2480 cents per line.
For three hundred and eleven insertions, 2488 cents per line.
For three hundred and twelve insertions, 2496 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirteen insertions, 2504 cents per line.
For three hundred and fourteen insertions, 2512 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifteen insertions, 2520 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixteen insertions, 2528 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventeen insertions, 2536 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighteen insertions, 2544 cents per line.
For three hundred and nineteen insertions, 2552 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty insertions, 2560 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty-one insertions, 2568 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty-two insertions, 2576 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty-three insertions, 2584 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty-four insertions, 2592 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty-five insertions, 2600 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty-six insertions, 2608 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty-seven insertions, 2616 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty-eight insertions, 2624 cents per line.
For three hundred and twenty-nine insertions, 2632 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty insertions, 2640 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty-one insertions, 2648 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty-two insertions, 2656 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty-three insertions, 2664 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty-four insertions, 2672 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty-five insertions, 2680 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty-six insertions, 2688 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty-seven insertions, 2696 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty-eight insertions, 2704 cents per line.
For three hundred and thirty-nine insertions, 2712 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty insertions, 2720 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty-one insertions, 2728 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty-two insertions, 2736 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty-three insertions, 2744 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty-four insertions, 2752 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty-five insertions, 2760 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty-six insertions, 2768 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty-seven insertions, 2776 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty-eight insertions, 2784 cents per line.
For three hundred and forty-nine insertions, 2792 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty insertions, 2800 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty-one insertions, 2808 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty-two insertions, 2816 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty-three insertions, 2824 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty-four insertions, 2832 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty-five insertions, 2840 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty-six insertions, 2848 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty-seven insertions, 2856 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty-eight insertions, 2864 cents per line.
For three hundred and fifty-nine insertions, 2872 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty insertions, 2880 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty-one insertions, 2888 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty-two insertions, 2896 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty-three insertions, 2904 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty-four insertions, 2912 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty-five insertions, 2920 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty-six insertions, 2928 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty-seven insertions, 2936 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty-eight insertions, 2944 cents per line.
For three hundred and sixty-nine insertions, 2952 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy insertions, 2960 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy-one insertions, 2968 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy-two insertions, 2976 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy-three insertions, 2984 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy-four insertions, 2992 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy-five insertions, 3000 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy-six insertions, 3008 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy-seven insertions, 3016 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy-eight insertions, 3024 cents per line.
For three hundred and seventy-nine insertions, 3032 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty insertions, 3040 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty-one insertions, 3048 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty-two insertions, 3056 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty-three insertions, 3064 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty-four insertions, 3072 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty-five insertions, 3080 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty-six insertions, 3088 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty-seven insertions, 3096 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty-eight insertions, 3104 cents per line.
For three hundred and eighty-nine insertions, 3112 cents per line.
For three hundred and ninety insertions, 3

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. VI, No. 4.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1866.

WHOLE No. 64.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

There is no better plan, in my estimation, for imparting information or giving advice, instructing the untravelled or interesting the intelligent, than through the medium of familiar letters. Everybody writes letters and everybody reads letters, and a letter in print, whether dry or juicy, is as sure to command a reading as a spark is to fly upward. Brilliant essays, thrilling prize stories, learned criticisms and luminous editorials, are not patronized by the masses. It may not be flattery—at least some may think so—to the supposed refined taste of our times—but it is nevertheless true. A letter puts every reader in immediate communication with its writer, and its humorous or grave descriptions, speculations, revelations, structure and general appointments, by a little stretching, exactly hits or fits somebody.

By familiar letters I mean those gossipy lucubrations, which, without bothering the brain or taxing the mind, accomplish their intended purpose, and help "time and the hour" to pass pleasantly away. In my contributions to your paper, I have striven, without envy, hatred or uncharitableness, to warm up ineffectual postmasters and their clerks to the proper and full performance of their official duties; and in a familiar way found fault with many lets and inapproprieties existing in post offices; and it is hardly presumable my letters are thought a little too familiar for one of the unannointed. Entertaining, as I do, a proper idea of the respect due to official position, whether civil or military, I think I can claim the right to take any steps, commensurate with dignity and propriety, which may help to elevate, stimulate, and otherwise regulate the standard of official efficiency, and so can "any other man" so long as he, like me, indulges in generalities. I told you long ago the cause of my quarrel with post offices, and exhausted my stock of ill-humor in fault finding—but upon the principle that "we like a man better after having fought with him," I really believe that my predilections are much stronger than ever my prejudices were—I therefore hope that I will be judged justly, understood correctly, and attended to accordingly. I don't claim for my familiar contributions to your useful paper, originality, research, acumen, or sagacity—indeed, on the contrary, I have only endeavored to embody and unobscure matter of fact observations and criticisms on ancient usages and modern abuses patent to everybody familiar with post office business, and who possess, even in a limited way, capacity for observation, discrimination and lamentation. I look upon the post office of to-day as one of the most important supports of our now measureless and still extending temple; and as careful culture and pruning promote growth, increase and yield in the vegetable, so will it in the animal kingdom—post officers not excepted.

It is just as easy to tell a careless, shiftless, and inefficient postmaster by the condition of his office and the conduct of his clerks, as it is to tell the thrifless farmer by his broken down fences, dilapidated barns, and lean, half-starved cattle; or the untidy housewife by her dingy domestic utensils, and her unwashed, unkempt, and badly clad little ones.

I would like to tell of some offices I have seen in my travels—where there is a place for everything, and everything in its place—and where the postmasters and their clerks look well, act well, and deserve and receive full credit therefor, but I forbear, as it might lead to comparisons, and comparisons in the Malapropian vocabulary are called "odorous."

Years ago, when post offices were not as plenty as churches, and days instead of hours were consumed in conveying letters to their destinations, some one having a realizing sense of their great and all-pervading importance, supposing, I suppose, of course, that they were faultless in their operations, paid the following tribute to the limited institutions of his day—what could he—would be—should be say of the gigantic event that could cause so great a revolution in the world as the cessation of post offices. A comet coming in collision with the earth could alone cause a greater shock to its inhabitants. It would shake nations to their centres; it would be a sort of imprisonment of the universal mind, a severing of affections, and a congelation of thought. It would be building up a wall of partition between the hearts of mother and child, and husband and wife, brother and sister. It would raise Alps between the breasts of friend and friend; and quench, as with an ocean, the love that is now breathed out in all its glowing fervor, despite of time or place. What would be all the treasures of the world, or all its praise to a feeling heart, if it could no longer pour out its fulness to its chosen friend, whom circumstances had removed afar off? What could solace the husband or the father, during his indispensable absence from the wife of his affections, or the child of his love, if he had no means of assuring them of his welfare and his unalterable love; and what could console him could be not be in-

formed of theirs? Life, under such circumstances, would be worse than a blank, it would be death to the soul, but without its forgetfulness. "Write soon—pray do write soon and often"—are among the last words we breathe into the ears of those we love, while we grasp the hand, and look into the eye, that will soon be far from us. What other consolation or hope is left us, when the train or the steamer is bearing that beloved being from us, while we stand fixed to the spot where the last adieu was uttered? The mail is the most perfect system of intercourse that has ever been devised; it scatters wealth and happiness in a thousand directions. No place is too distant for it to reach, no village is too insignificant for it to visit. Like the sun, dispensing delight, it goes its daily journey. The heat of summer and the cold of winter are not allowed to retard it. In spite of all interference, it carries on the important business of courtship, and leads to matrimony for better or worse. It solaces the lover's hope through many a cruel mile, and the hushful hatchelor, (he never lost a letter)—may do through the medium of the mail—may, if he prefers it, he may even put the last question into the hands of the postman."

Centlemen—ye who have the post offices in your keeping—if it is your duty to "stand and deliver" letters, do it carefully, civilly, and cheerfully; if it is your duty to look after the internal economy of the office, do it patiently, thoroughly, and good naturedly; and when you have nothing else to do, practice patience, cultivate sympathy, study to please your customers, and wake up every morning with the pleasant recollection on your minds that you went to bed at peace with all the world generally, and your patrons in particular.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

A New Post Office in New York.

The Ronlont (N. Y.) Freeman, whose editor was formerly a very efficient clerk in the New York post office, gives the following as his views in regard to the proposed New York post office building in the latter city:

The Postmaster General recommends to Congress the erection of a new General Post Office in New York city. This is a matter of interest to the whole country, as mail matter for the whole world passes through that office, and we are concerned in any improvement by which the work of carrying letters may be expedited. A new post office in a proper location, and built in accordance with common sense principles, would allow letters for the country to be retained for an hour's later news. The present building is in no wise adapted to the purpose of expeditious work, is of far too limited accommodations for the force required, and the mail matter handled, is unhealthy and disagreeable for the clerks inside, and a disgusting eyesore for the public outside, in one of the most unhandy and crowded streets in the city, and is a subject of annoyance to every one in the city and almost every one in the country.

The most proper location in the city for such an office would be the Park or the New York Hospital grounds. The former would still answer the same purpose for the lower part of the city as the present, as an office for the reception and delivery of mail matter, while the different lines of railroads could run their cars into the building, and receive the mailbags without the first loading of the wagons and the transfer to the cars, by which operation the greater part of an hour is consumed. The other spot, which is the best, giving the most room, and being situated in a more central part of the city, would be nearer the terminal of the principal railroads, would be accessible by their cars, and time, the all important item, would be saved in the work of sending a letter out of the office as soon as possible after it comes in. The lower part of the city could be accommodated by several station houses, in which the work of delivering and receiving letters could be done, the stamping, assorting and tying could be constantly going on, the last letters from each being carried directly into the travelling post offices. The work could thus be done in a more perfect and expeditious manner, bringing letters to several centres, each of which will be nearer to the destination of the letters received, and avoiding the necessity of compelling the whole lower part of the city to converge on one point with their mail matter. It is not right that it should be necessary for a letter to be in the office one hour and a half before the time the train carrying it leaves the city. That time is the most valuable portion of the day for letters in which business firms sum up the results of the day's business for the benefit of their country correspondents. That that time is valuable is shown by the fact that our Canal Company pays three hundred dollars for the privilege of receiving its letters mailed between 2 o'clock and 3 30 P. M.

Of course to other corporations and firms having a still greater correspondence, this time is still more valuable. Any thing which will make a later closing of the mail possible with the correct dispatch of letters and papers, will be of immense value to the country equally as well as to the city, and a new Post-office, with an intelligent application of the benefits of the travelling post offices, will accomplish that work.

In France, for the furtherance of postal arrangements, the country is divided into six districts, each having a resident inspector, whose duty it is to see that the mail service in his department is properly performed, and to take measures for securing the most rapid transmission of letters by railway and other conveyances.

A POSTAL EXCHANGE.—A farmer recently observed a man trespassing on his grounds. Being much enraged thereat, he threw an old post at the fellow, at the same time demanding his business there. The man spoke not, but hurried the old hack again at the quarrel, so that the intruder received his answer *per return of post*.

Interesting Postal Statistics.

From the Report of the Postmaster General we gather the following statistics of the operations of the Department during the past fiscal year:

SALES OF STAMPS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES.
Stamps issued, \$87,418,955, value \$12,099,987.50
Stamped envelopes, 26,040,475, " 23,135.00
Newspaper wrappers, 1,165,750, " 23,316.00

Of the stamps issued, 2,220,800 were of the denomination of 1-cent; 49,749,250 2-cent; 326,512,950 3-cent; 1,207,180 5-cent; 4,166,460 10-cent; 1,216,625 12-cent; 1,808,350 24-cent; 371,090 30-cent; 65,750 90-cent.

Of the stamped envelopes issued, 468,750 were "2-cent circular" envelopes; 2,422,175 were "2-cent drops"; 621,250 were "3-cent note"; 20,568,450 were "3-cent letter"; 148,750 were "3-cent extra letter"; 61,050 were "6-cent official."

The value of the stamps, envelopes and wrappers sold during the year was \$12,399,727.85.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The following statement exhibits the receipts of the Post Office Department, under their several appropriate heads, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865:

Letter postage	\$337,770 18
Newspaper postage, &c.	373,807 83
Registered letters	66,606 63
Fines	17 56
Emoluments	545,328 89
Stamps sold	12,399,727 85
Miscellaneous	31,777 34
Dead letters	5,222 70
	\$14,556,158 70

The following table exhibits the expenditures of the Post Office Department, under their several appropriate heads, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865:

Compensation to postmasters	\$3,383,381 77
Compensation to letter carriers	404,203 64
Ships, steamboats, and way letters	5,294 74
Transportation of the mails	7,141,709 91
Wrapping paper	91,462 55
Office furniture	1,631 70
Advertising	70,416 11
Mail bags	125,888 72
Blank agents and assistants	9,240 62
Mail locks, keys, and stamps	5,701 39
Mail depredations and special agents	62,833 22
Clarks for offices	1,528,936 57
Postages on stamps and stamped envelopes	183,478 86
Miscellaneous	303,069 61
Miscellaneous account of Bremen mails	60,516 40
Miscellaneous account of Hamburg mails	69,327 56
Miscellaneous account of French mails	35,677 04
Miscellaneous account of British mails	134,762 87
	\$13,694,728 28

CARRIERS' DELIVERY.

The following statement shows the operation of the free delivery carrier system at the principal post offices during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865:

Names of Post Offices.	No. of Letters delivered.	Am't paid for delivery.
New York, N. Y.	12,030,918	\$126,538 62
Philadelphia, Pa.	7,339,847	31,994 88
Baltimore, Md.	3,383,860	35,344 52
Baltimore, Md.	1,965,340	21,914 40
Providence, R. I.	500,524	3,981 50
St. Louis, Mo.	1,107,524	15,048 06
Washington, D. C.	1,352,631	17,843 90
Cleveland, Ohio	556,256	11,746 63
Cincinnati, Ohio	1,163,901	13,422 73
Chicago, Ill.	820,326	21,980 96
Buffalo, N. Y.	303,027	10,198 56
Total	30,584,554	\$367,344 75

The number of newspapers delivered by carriers at the above post offices during the year was 3,233,606.

LETTERS TO AND FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The following statement shows the number of letters exchanged between the United States and foreign countries during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865:

Countries.	Received.	Sent.
Great Britain	1,795,298	1,897,377
France	531,379	627,043
Prussia	406,087	424,444
Belgium	24,355	23,779
Hamburg	183,941	306,198
Bremen	206,177	319,361
West Indies	306,160	264,533
Panama	82,969	55,376
Total	3,466,346	3,915,259

Increase over last fiscal year 60,372 316,803

The number of newspapers exchanged with the same countries during the same time was 2,905,325 sent, and 1,186,822 received.

FOREIGN POSTAGES.

The aggregate amount of postage (sea, inland, and foreign), on the mails exchanged with the United Kingdom, was \$865,936 94

To Great Britain	\$453,801 45
To Prussia	122,892 93
To France	92,354 98
To Bremen	44,774 28
To Hamburg	43,358 16
To Belgium	6,450 41
Total	\$770,612 24

The postages on mails received from Europe were as follows, viz:

From Great Britain	\$412,135 49
From Prussia	88,592 15
From France	23,089 54
From Hamburg	24,943 03
From Bremen	6,574 35
From Belgium	6,574 35
Total	\$678,918 52

Postages collected in the United States, \$930,536 64
Postages collected in Europe, \$18,974 22

Excess of collections in the U. S. States, \$411,562 32

The excess of postage on mails sent from the United States to different countries of Europe over that accruing on mails received from the same countries was as follows:

Great Britain	\$41,663 86
France	16,742 83
Bremen	19,831 25
Hamburg	20,268 62
Total	\$92,508 66

MONEY ORDERS.

The following statement shows the transactions of the Money Order Office, from November 1, 1864, to the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1865, embracing a period of eight months.

RECEIPTS.
Amount transferred from postage fund to commence money order business and to enable postmasters who were short of money order funds to pay orders drawn on them \$191,868 37
Received for 7,477 money orders issued 1,380,122 52
Fees received on same \$11,462 95
Fees received on duplicate orders 71 95
Premium received for drafts sold 11,534 90
Amount received on deposit account 941,995 26
Balance due late postmasters, June 30 58 32
\$2,605,379 87

DISBURSEMENTS.
Amount of money orders paid \$1,291,972 22
Amount repaid at issuing offices 21,784 86
Transferred to postage fund 1,171,878 88
Re-issued on deposit account 544,202 17
Amount due from late postmasters 1 11
Expenses: Clerk hire \$8,350 22
Commissions 2,226 27
Port Royal, S. C. 4,271 50
Stationery 953 70
Premium paid on exchange 91 70
Miscellaneous 2,650 68
Total expenses 18,584 37
Balance in hands of postmasters 7,172 26
\$2,605,379 87

The following statement shows the disparity between the amount of money orders issued and the amount paid at certain offices.

Offices in which the issues exceed the payments.	Issued.	Paid.
Albany, N. Y.	\$19,170 55	\$12,374 61
Alexandria, Va.	18,801 73	5,630 10
Cairo, Ill.	10,381 35	3,650 62
Chattanooga, Tenn.	99,121 07	5,347 89
City Point, Va.	98,642 95	9,027 73
Memphis, Tenn.	30,188 72	4,864 76
Nashville, Tenn.	104,225 13	12,037 18
Newbern, N. C.	28,348 44	5,566 91
New Orleans, La.	29,016 44	9,419 70
Port Royal, S. C.	4,068 05	32,878 87
Providence, R. I.	20,308 78	12,942 63
St. Louis, Mo.	43,998 81	31,684 45
Vicksburg, Miss.	7,139 61	1,116 80
Washington, D. C.	78,891 22	50,269 31
Offices in which payments exceed the issues.		
Baltimore, Md.	\$20,096 60	\$3,148 80
Boston, Mass.	31,064 43	72,784 19
Brooklyn, N. Y.	15,482 43	32,878 87
Buffalo, N. Y.	10,084 94	20,846 44
Lynn, Mass.	1,873 16	6,445 34
New Haven, Ct.	5,438 45	10,402 27
New London, Ct.	700 09	2,198 52
New York, N. Y.	79,129 23	226,715 63
Oswego, N. Y.	1,881 85	4,111 18
Philadelphia, Pa.	79,790 02	117,679 54
Pittsburg, Pa.	11,716 73	17,816 08
Rochester, N. Y.	4,068 05	7,313 10
Rochester, N. Y.	4,925 52	14,713 13
St. Paul, Minn.	3,516 21	9,533 44
Salem, Mass.	2,734 39	5,211 85
Utica, N. Y.	5,056 04	9,261 87

* NOTE.—The difference between the amount of deposits received, to wit, \$12,295 91, should be added to the balance in the hands of postmasters, in order to show the true condition of the fund. The reason of this discrepancy occurs from the fact that the above amount, though remitted and credit taken therefor previous to 30th June, was not received at the depository office till subsequent to that date.

Railroad Companies and the Mails.

The Postmaster General has issued the following circular to the managers of railroads carrying the mails. We hope it will have the effect of recalling to the recollection of some of those gentlemen the fact that the reception of their compensation is not the only duty which their contracts impose upon them. The complaints of mail failures made by the press and the public are in nearly all cases directed against the Post Office Department, which is thus unjustly made to bear the blame of the short-comings of the railroad companies. One of the excuses for these failures, which was offered by many of the companies during the war—that the transportation of soldiers and military stores for the government necessitated the derangement of the regular business of the roads—no longer exists; and it is to be hoped that a decided improvement in the punctual fulfillment of their mail contracts, now that peace is restored, will show to the public and the Department that that excuse really had a foundation in fact.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30, 1865.

It is known to you that the mail service on the railroads, generally, during last winter, was so irregularly performed as to seriously delay the transmission of the mails. Various causes were assigned for the failure, but the principal one was the great length of trains, that made it impossible for them to make their schedule time. No satisfactory reason for this was made to this Department or the public. The compensation for carrying the mails is remunerative to the railroad companies, and their obligation is clearly to convey them according to their most expeditious schedules, whatever may be the delay to their passenger or freight traffic. The interest of the public in the regular and speedy transmission of the mails is superior to the private interests of railroad companies, and the delaying of the mails by overburdened trains is virtually a violation of the implied contracts of the companies with this Department. The remedy is with the companies. Lessen the number of cars on the mail trains, especially on those carrying the through mails, to the maximum that will not necessarily prevent the schedule times being regularly made, and the difficulty will be removed. The request, now made, for you to do so, is in no sense unreasonable, but demanded alike for the interests of the government and the public, while your faithful compliance will only be the proper observance of your contract with the Department.

I trust your company will heartily co-operate with the Department in its earnest desire to furnish the mails regularly and expeditiously to the public. Respectfully,

W. DENNISON,
Postmaster General

Registering Letters.

"It is of the utmost importance that postmasters should exercise the greatest care and diligence in the custody and despatch of registered letters."—Instructions issued by Postmaster General with Act of March 3, 1863.

[We have compiled from the regulations of the Department the following instructions in regard to the registration of letters. They are intended especially for the benefit of postmasters at the smaller offices, and include replies to many questions on this subject, which we are constantly receiving from our subscribers.]

REGISTERED LETTER BLANKS.—All the blanks which are required for use in the registration of letters can be obtained by addressing the Blank Agents of the Department, whose names and addresses will be found in another column.

REGISTRATION FEES.—The registration fee on all registered domestic letters is twenty cents, and the same on letters to Great Britain and Ireland. On those to Canada, and to Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen or Hamburg line, or by Prussia, closed mail, the fee is five cents. The places mentioned above are the only foreign countries to which letters can be sent registered. The full postage on all registered letters, both foreign and domestic, must be prepaid by stamps.—(See last column of fourth page of this paper.)

RECEIVING LETTERS FOR REGISTRATION.—A sheet is furnished by the Blank Agents, on application by postmasters, on the right hand of which is printed the form of "Registered Letter Receipt," in the center the "Return Registered Letter Receipt," and on the left hand the "Marginal Entry." When a letter is presented for registration, the postmaster should give to the depositor the registered letter receipt, (right hand) first entering therein the registered number of the letter, the date of deposit, the name of his post office, the name and residence of the depositor, and the address of the letter. In the Return Registered Letter Receipt, (center) should be entered the same items, and also in the Marginal Entry, (left hand.) This letter is to be retained by the postmaster, and the return receipt disposed of as hereinafter directed. No entry of the sum said to be contained in the letter is required to, or should be made.

PREPARING REGISTERED LETTERS FOR MAILING.—After the above directions have been followed, the postmaster will fill up a "Registered Letter Bill," (which is printed on the back of the ordinary post-bills headed "Unpaid Letters," which are supplied to all small offices,) entering therein the same items which are entered in the "Return Receipt"; but being careful, when intending to forward the registered letter through a distributing office, to insert the name of that office instead of that of the office which the letter is intended finally to reach. (In all cases, however, the "Return Receipt" must be filled up with the name of the distributing office.) Then he will fill up the "Return Bill," (which must not be confounded with the "Return Receipt") in the same manner; then enclose the "Return Receipt" in a sealed envelope marked "Registered," and addressed to the postmaster of the office to which he intends to forward it.—[N. B. The instruction printed on the present "Registered Letter Bill" is placed in a bundle of masters are "not required to put up registered letters in a separate envelope," &c., has been rescinded by the Department, and all registered letters are now required to be placed in a wrapper, which he will enclose in a wrapper, marked with the name of the same office to which he has addressed the envelope in which he has placed the letter. The packages should then be placed in the mail and sent forward—but should not be placed in a bundle of letters intended for distribution—as a registered letter is always intended to reach the postmaster of whatever office it is sent to, and consequently is not, strictly speaking, a distributing letter, although it may be sent to a Distributing Office.]

MAILING REGISTERED LETTERS.—It is advisable for postmasters, at all small offices, to mail such of their registered letters as are intended for offices outside of their respective States, to the first Distributing Post Office on the route ordered by the intended letters shall pass—being careful to address the sealed envelope in which they enclose them, to the postmaster of that office, and also marking the name of the person to whom they are addressed, and being sure that the "Registered Letter Bill" is also filled up with the name of that office. In short, registered letters sent through a Distributing Post Office, should be mailed and billed exactly the same as though they were intended to be placed in a bundle of letters intended for distribution—as a registered letter is always intended to reach the postmaster of whatever office it is sent to, and consequently is not, strictly speaking, a distributing letter, although it may be sent to a Distributing Office.]

RETURN BILLS.—This should be filled up exactly in the same manner, and bear the same date as the "Registered Letter Bill," but should be sent in the next mail which leaves the office after the one in which the letter it refers to was sent. It should be enclosed in an envelope addressed to the postmaster of the office to which the letter was sent, whether for delivery or for distribution.

ACCOUNTS OF REGISTERED LETTERS "SENT" AND "RECEIVED."—Separate blank sheets for these accounts are furnished by the Department, and may be procured by applying to the different Blank Agents. On these are entered the dates of receiving (and sending) registered letter bills, the names of the offices to which the letters are sent (and from which they are received), the registered numbers of the letters, the names of the persons to whom they are addressed, and the amounts of the registry fees paid on them. These sheets will be retained by postmasters, copies being forwarded to the Department with their quarterly accounts.

DELIVERY OF REGISTERED LETTERS.—On receiving a registered letter for delivery, the postmaster should deliver it only to the person to whom it is addressed, or to some person whom he knows to be authorized to receive it, taking a receipt therefor, and also requiring the person to whom he delivers it to sign the "Return Receipt," which accompanies it. This "Return Receipt" he should then forward by first mail to the postmaster of the office at which the letter was originally mailed. When the "Return Bill" arrives, (which it should be by next mail after the letter,) it should be marked "correct," and signed by the postmaster, and then forwarded by first mail to the postmaster of the office at which the letter was originally mailed. If, however, a "Return Bill" arrives, and the letter which it calls for has not been received, the "Return Bill" must be marked "not received," signed by the postmaster, and returned in the same manner.

FORWARDING REGISTERED LETTERS.—When a registered letter arrives, addressed to a person who has removed, or who for any other cause wishes it forwarded to him at another office, it may be done at his written request. The order to forward should be noted on the account of registered letters received, opposite the name of the person making the request. The letter should be sent forward as a registered letter—in the same manner as if originally mailed as one; but no additional forwarding fee is to be charged on it. The order to forward must be filed in the office of forwarding, as a voucher for the action had in the case.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK.
J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1866

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, October 25, 1864.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation. H. M. A. H. Postmaster General.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established. H. M. A. H. Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Oct. 18, 1864.

DEAR SIR,—I have been hesitating in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the "United States Mail and Post Office Assistant," as a medium of communication of correct information to Postmasters and other respecting postal operations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department. W. DENISON, Postmaster General.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whose this number reaches, marked 63 or 64, will please remit at once.

Although it is a desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them at as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before the publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official information on the postal matters.

A Modest Suggestion.

We are glad to say that the universal testimony among postmasters who take the Mail, is, that it is of very great value to them—many write to us, saying that they "could not do without it," that the information contained in each number far outweighs the subscription price for a whole year. Relying upon our instructions and advice, they find the business of their offices going on "like clock work," and they naturally wonder that all offices are not conducted in the same proper manner. They find the true path of duty by the easiest and shortest method—by consulting the columns of our paper. Their doubts are solved by reading our "Answers to Correspondents"; they meet and mingle ideas under our head of "Communications"; recent decisions of the Department, embracing instructions designed to cover certain emergencies, all appear as "Official" changes in foreign postages are corrected monthly in the "Table of Postages to Foreign Countries"; knowledge of the utmost value to them, as well as to the public at large, is given in our "Miscellaneous Information," a comprehensive "Foreign Miscellany" appear in every number; the list of "New Post Offices and Changes" prepared for us by the Department, is intimately connected with the business of all well regulated offices; and an agreeable general miscellany fosters and encourages that spirit of generous rivalry, which should ever be the rule and guide of the conduct of persons occupying offices of great public trust. All this they know and feel, and they tell us so; therefore, we have the less hesitation in asking them why they should not endeavor to secure for us the subscriptions of all those around them who have never taken our paper? The information we give would, in the event of these others being participants in the same, be doubly valuable to themselves, for, both doing their work by the same rule, they would all be equally correct, thus lessening materially all causes of complaint. Our paper is published under the sanction of the Post Office Department, and its design is to make plain the duty of postmasters, to solve all troublesome doubts, to remove many of the perplexities inseparable from the position in which they have been placed, and to be, what we shall constantly strive to make it, and what we hope it is, to a great extent, a guide and assistant to postmasters and the public.

We have received a sample of "DeWheimer's Compound Stamping Cushion and Pad." For the smaller offices it will be found a very convenient and valuable article. See advertisement.

Post Office Gossips.

We presume that few of our subscribers who have the charge of, or are employed in, post-offices of the smaller towns and villages, have escaped the petty annoyance caused by the tattling of those individuals—a sample of whom can be found in nearly or quite every community—who beguile their frequent leisure hours, and gratify their taste for scandal, by peddling out, to all who will hear them, groundless complaints of "indecency at the post office," "silly opinions of a mismanagement at the post office," or even dark hints of a mysterious "something wrong at the post office." The gossips of this class are not generally of the female sex; it is not in the circle of ancient damsels seated round the festive board, that this particular form of scandal is apt to be the theme of converse; but around the bar-room stove, amid the fumes of ill-smelling pipes and worse cigars, at the gill-tongued breakers of the ninth commandment, bearing false witness against their neighbor, the postmaster, Mr. Saunter Tardy, who was never known to be in time for anything but a horse race or an invitation to quench his thirst, thinks that "it's time our post office was overhauled," for the reason that the postmaster declined to accommodate him by delaying the departure of the mail for half an hour, to enable Mr. T. to write and post a letter which ought to have been written a month before. Mr. Solomon Seedy, who has expended so much of his talents for business in endeavoring to manage the affairs of his acquaintances, that he has neglected his own to such an extent as to render it probable that the sheriff will take charge of them for him next week—sympathizes cordially with Mr. Tardy, and is decidedly of opinion that the postmaster "don't know no more about running a post office than a cow does about a musket," and that some "real smart man" ought to succeed to the position as soon as possible—perhaps might be willing to serve his fellow citizens as postmaster himself, but modestly abstains from saying so. Mr. Jerry Sneak, about whose dexterity in the athletic sport called "jumping the bounty," certain curious tales were adroitly spun by him from a visit to the city a year or so ago—and who certainly once showed visible perturbation at a casual allusion in his hearing, to a provost marshal—thinks it "kind of curious" that not long after Josh Greening sent a letter with ten dollars for a lottery ticket in it, the postmaster bought a new hat—and Josh has never heard of his ten dollars—but it may be all right at the post office—wouldn't it be say nothin' to injure no man's character." And so the dreary, senseless babble goes on, to be repeated, perhaps, next day, by other senseless babblers, until the whole village bums with idle and groundless rumors of rudeness, incompetency, or something worse, on the part of the postmaster or his clerks.

Now, we would by no means deny the right of every member of the community to hold and express his opinion as to post office matters, and to criticize and complain of the conduct of post office officials when such criticism and complaint is deserved. The post office is established for the convenience and benefit of the people, and each and every one of the people has a greater or less interest in its honest and faithful management. No postmaster, therefore, has a right to complain of any amount of watchfulness which any person may choose to exercise over his conduct as a public officer, nor of just and intelligent criticisms in regard to it. His aim should be, by careful attention to his duty and impartial courtesy to all, to avoid giving real occasion for complaint.

If he does this, the tongues of evil-speakers can do him no serious injury, however much they may irritate and annoy him if he is at all thin skinned and over-sensitive.

Our correspondent "O. K." in his communication on the 2d page of this number, suggests a method of attaining a very desirable end, viz: the reimbursement to the Department of the amount expended for advertising letters. His plan is to require the affixing of a two-cent stamp by the depositor of every letter which it is desired shall be advertised, in addition to the required amount of postage. Other details of the plan are given in his letter, and we think it well worthy of consideration.

A resolution has been introduced in the U. S. Senate, and adopted, instructing the Post Office Committee to inquire into and report upon the expediency of abolishing the franking privilege with regard to every thing except written matter.

Answers to Correspondents.

"Small Religious Newspapers," &c.—J. S. B. M.—Ind.—One of the conditions on which packages of small religious newspapers are carried in the mails at a reduced rate of postage is, that such packages shall be to one address; and they should be delivered to that address only. If the party addressed desires them to be "distributed," he has the privilege of doing that work himself. 2. No postmaster at any "head office," or any other office, has the right to open papers passing through his office, and insert therein handbills advertising his business. If you know of any person in the habit of doing so, report the matter in full to the Department.

Sale of Stamps, &c.—E. H. S.—Ky.—1. Any person has the right to sell postage stamps, provided they do not sell them at higher rates than they are sold by the Department. 2. Unpaid letters dropped in your office, marked "Paid," should of course be treated as unpaid. 3. Letters passing through your office, mailed at other offices, marked "Paid," you have nothing whatever to do with except to forward to the office of delivery. The postage on such letters has probably been prepaid in money, and though that is never to be done, except in certain extreme cases, the fact that the letters have been so pre-paid cannot in any way affect you.

Post bills with Registered Letters.—H. C. P.—Mass.—An ordinary post bill, marked "P. M.," should accompany each package of "Registered Letters." This post bill, on its arrival at the office to which it is sent, should be checked with the initials of the clerk who opens the bundles containing the registered packages.

Wrapping Packages of Letters.—J. C. W.—Penn.—All postmasters, except those whose offices are supplied in whole or in part, by "railway post-offices," are required to wrap in paper all packages of letters sent from their offices; the discontinuance of wrappers, ordered by the Department at this time, was intended to be confined to those offices receiving mails through railway post offices, and to that service exclusively.

Postmarking.—G. S. B. J.—N. Y.—All letters must bear the postmark of the date on which the mail containing them is actually sent off. If you purposely affix a false postmark to a letter deposited in your office, you will be guilty of complicity in deception, and probably fraud; therefore you will, in all cases, return to do so.

Withdrawing Letters.—P. M. R.—Mich.—You are at liberty to return to the writer thereof, or to a person presenting his written order, previous to its delivery, any letter which may have been deposited in your office.

Marking Registered Packages.—E. D. K.—Mass.—The reason why the sealed envelopes directed to the postmaster should be marked "Registered," is that on arrival, it will be more readily reached the clerk, whose duty it is to take charge of registered letters.

Missing Dead Letter.—R. D. T. S.—Ohio—Report all the facts in the case to the Department for investigation.

Letters to Postmasters.—L. S.—Mich.—Postmasters can neither receive nor send letters to private individuals free, whether on official business or otherwise.

Post Office Maps.—W. A. H. F.—N. Y.—The postal maps referred to are in course of preparation by the Department, but are not yet ready for delivery.

Forwarding Franked Letters.—P. O. Clerk.—I properly forwarded letters, and the person to whom they are addressed is absent from the place to which they are directed.

Circulars containing Writings.—T. E. N. O.—Minnesota.—Circulars partly printed, but containing written notices of any nature, are chargeable with letter postage.

Wrapping Letters.—J. G. N.—Iowa.—The discontinuance of wrappers was intended to be confined to those offices receiving mail matter through railway post offices, and for that service exclusively. By the latest instructions of the Postmaster General, on this subject, postmasters are directed to conform fully to the first paragraph of section 47, and to sections 42 and 43 of Chapter IV. of the regulations of 1859. Those whose offices are supplied by railway offices are to be governed by instructions from the superintendents of railway postal service in regard to the manner of making up mails.

Ordering Post Office Blanks.—H. C. P.—Mass.—The ordinary post office blanks should be ordered from the blank agents. There is, however, a list of forty-four special blanks issued by the appointment officer, which can only be obtained by a requisition upon the First Assistant Postmaster General. This list can be obtained by requesting from him copies of Blanks No. 39, "Requisition of Blanks," it has not already been sent to you.

Unpaid Drop Letters.—J. S. V. B.—Pa.—Unpaid drop letters must be marked "held for postage." Dead Letter Office, the same as other unpaid domestic letters, see the new instructions, under Sec. 1, Act of May 1, 1864.

Doubtfully directed Letters.—K. C. B. W.—Mich.—The postmaster should satisfy himself, before allowing a person for whom a letter is supposed to be intended to open it, that it is really intended for that person. A trifling error in the name should not be taken as sufficient proof that the notice is not intended for the person who claims it. But great care and discretion should be used in all such cases.

Using Sheets of "Mails Sent"—W. B. M. R.—Pa.—You should charge on your sheet of "Mails Sent," to every office to which you send unpaid matter for delivery, the amount of postage due thereon; sending a post-bill containing a similar charge with such matter. Never charge either a separating or distributing office with matter which you send through it for transmission to other offices. As you of course have no bills to charge under the new instructions, the post bill is to be enclosed in the wrapper with the letters.

Postage on Advertised Lists.—M. J. E. P.—Cl.—As you are obliged to send your list of uncollected letters by mail to another town to be advertised, enclose it, under your frank, to the postmaster of that place, with a request for it to be delivered to the publisher of the newspaper.

Postmaster's Frank.—J. N. M. M.—Ohio.—You cannot frank letters to editors on any business whatever.

Communications.—POSTAL REFORMS.—Editor U. S. Mail: Deeming it incumbent on every post office man, however humble his position, to give the results of his experience, if they affect the general good, I trouble you with this communication. I believe that it will be conceded that not more than one-fifth of all the letters advertised are delivered, and of course the Department loses absolutely four-fifths of the amount paid for publishing them. This is no inconsiderable sum, when we consider the vast extent of our country. It is the part of wisdom to profit by our experience, and if it teaches us that the present system of publishing uncollected letters fails to secure the object, why not cease to advertise? Why pay to newspapers a very large sum for publishing weekly a list of strangers' names, which very seldom falls under the eyes of the class which alone might be benefited by it? My plan is this,—advertise all foreign letters. They are more generally called for, and international comity may demand it; but require as a condition for advertising domestic letters, that the writers signify their desire to have them so printed by affixing a two cent postage stamp thereon, in addition to the regular postage, this stamp to be cancelled when the letter is advertised. A manuscript list of all other uncollected letters, posted at the delivery window, will serve as good a purpose as the present system. My reason for requiring two cents is, because that amount is little enough to pay a publisher for each name. The Department may, by adopting this special saving to pay the salaries of its Special Agents.

There is another crying evil in our present postal system, viz., permitting unpaid newspapers in the mails. What should be a source of revenue, under the present system barely pays the expense of collection. Insist on prepayment of all matter, letters and papers as a condition to mailing. I know that I will be met by the assertion that such papers as the Tribune, Herald, etc., could never mail their daily issues if prepayment was necessary. The answer is simple. Require a statement of the number of papers forwarded during the past three months, to be submitted at the beginning of a quarter, verified by the oath of the proprietor and mailing clerk. Make this the basis for the current quarter, and thus by quarterly statements through the year, the exact number of papers, as near as need be,

can be ascertained and paid for in advance, and no delay occasioned. But I am told "fraud will be practised." Yes, very true. But I am willing to take the oath of the press men generally as readily as any body of intelligent gentlemen in the land. I hazard nothing in the assertion that the Department will lose one cent as much revenue, if my plan is adopted, by the carelessness of its own officials. In case of dispute, the newspaper books might be required to be exhibited to the post office agents. And then there is no estimating the advantage in the matter of good temper and other ecstasies so essential to the well being of postmasters as of any other class. The publisher cannot complain, for he merely adds the yearly postage to the subscription price.

There is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous, so pardon me for giving the following, which is "too good to keep." In one of our goodly commonwealths resides a certain postmaster, who has been very particular to "catch up" every other brother official at all derelict in his duty. One day came a registered package, accompanied by an ordinary post-bill, bearing the exhibitive mark, "P. Reg." Our postmaster eyed this bill with wonder, and may have called a meeting of the village savans; he may even have submitted the mysterious document to the "squire," and finally his pent up feelings burst forth in an angry letter to the offending brother, demanding what was meant in sending such bills to him, for, said he, "I'll be qualified if I've received either key or keg from you."

Whether the Department has been called upon to despatch a "special" in search of that string "key or keg," I haven't yet learned.

COLLECTING NEWSPAPER POSTAGE—ANOTHER NEW PLAN. November, 1865.

Editor U. S. Mail: I see in your paper that many of your correspondents try their skill in proposing amendments to the law regulating postage on newspapers. Having caught the infection myself, I propose the following system: All mail matters except legal franks, must be pre-paid by stamps. Let miscellaneous and transient matter, gas, as is now provided. Printed matter, regularly issued and mailed from office of publication, may be disposed of as follows:

Let government furnish stamped newspaper wrappers of the proper denomination for from one to five newspapers, and stamps for larger bundles. Let the larger bundles go by weight, and not by numbers, which would be a great deal more convenient, and more just to the smaller newspapers. Should a falling off in the revenue be apprehended, establish three ounces as the rate for bundles, or leave it four ounces, and raise the charge sufficiently not to impair the industry.

If all forwarding of printed matters not fully paid by stamps, or not legally franked, were strictly prohibited, then all postage would be collected without loss to the department from dishonest publishers and postmasters, and all accounts be greatly simplified.

In regard to the objection raised by some postmasters that their salary, already small enough, would thereby be still more reduced, I will say that the good of the service is the object paramountly aimed at, but that the same power which may change the present postal law may pass such amendments as will insure to all postmasters adequate pay for all their services rendered.

LETTER FROM A PUBLISHER. New York, December, 1865.

Editor U. S. Mail: I see in the last issue of the Mail, that matters are looking to a pre-paid newspaper postage. If publishers would study their own interests, they would be the most strenuous promoters of a pre-paid periodical and newspaper postage. It is inconvenient, loss and delay which subscribers suffer, who fail to receive punctually their publications, is almost entirely their own fault. Certainly 80 per cent. of all complaints can be attributed to the non-fulfillment of the postage laws in relation to the pre-payment of postage. I come to this conclusion after fifteen years experience. Two years since I commenced publishing a periodical—my terms being inclusive of postage. I can only remember one complaint received in the two years; and on inquiry, I found the periodical had been delivered to another person of the same name in a large city.

My plan is to fill up a printed form on the day I receive a subscription, and with the requisite amount of postage for the full term of subscription, send it to the office, not over asking a receipt for the same. I find my mails go O. K., as I have no complaints. As I expect shortly to increase my business, I will have a more detailed though simple plan.

30 YEARS IN THE NEWSPAPER TRADE.

The following advertisement appeared in the Syracuse Courier recently: "Manufacture wanted, stable manure. Any person having from five to fifty loads to dispose of, will please send word, or drop it through the post office."

New Post Offices, and Changes. The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of December, 1865:

Name.	County and State.	Nearest Office.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.

DISCONTINUED.

(In the annexed List will be found added, the names of the nearest offices to which matter for those having been discontinued, should be sent.)

Name.	County and State.	Nearest Office.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.
Amosville, Mich.	Washtenaw, Mich.	Ann Arbor.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. VI, No. 5.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1866.

WHOLE No. 65.

American Postal History.

JANUARY, 1866.

Editor U. S. Mail: Herewith I send you a memorandum of a few facts relating to the postal history of this country, which have come in my way in the course of my reading. They present no outline which, perhaps, some one of your learned correspondents may be prompted to put out. I presume they might be largely extended by any one who had the leisure.

1639, Nov. 5.—The General Court of the Colony of Massachusetts, voted as follows, viz: "For preventing the miscarriage of letters, it is ordered that notice be given that Richard Fairbanks, his house in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters which are brought from beyond seas, or are to be sent thither; to be brought to; and he is to take care that they be delivered according to their directions; and is allowed for every such such letter a penny, and must answer all miscarriages through his neglect in this kind; provided that no man shall be compelled to bring his letters thither, except he please."

1677, June 1.—In answer to the request of several merchants of Boston, declaring that they have heard many complaints made by merchants and others that they have been sensible of the loss of letters, whereby merchants with their friends and employers in foreign parts are greatly damaged, many times letters are thrown upon the exchange, that who will take them up, &c., therefore humbly desire this Court to depute some meet person to take in and convey letters according to yr direction, this Court judged it mete to grant the petitioner's request herein, and have made a choice of Mr. John Hayward, the scrivener, to be the person for that service."

1684, Nov. 12.—Edward Randolph received a royal commission to be postmaster for New England.

1687, Nov. 23.—A monthly post was now contemplated, to pass between Boston and the furthest settlements of distant Connecticut, Governor Andros wrote from Boston to John Allyn, Secretary of Connecticut: "I have spoken to Perry of his going between this and Hartford once a month this winter, if not further, as far as Fairfield and Stamford, to be done in the spring." To which Allyn replied, Dec. 5: "I believe Perry will undertake once a month to pass from Fairfield to Boston in the winter, and once in three weeks in the summer, or fatter if your Excellency desire it, and the charge of it upon the whole will be no great matter. Should he be put upon letters at three, I leave it to your Excellency to charge, to satisfy you. But if it were tried one year by a year, the better guess may be given for a settlement of it."

1691, Feb. 17.—Two years after the accession of William and Mary, Thomas Neale was by his patent authorized "to erect, settle and establish within the chief ports of their Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in America, an office or offices for the receiving and despatching letters and packets," and to receive for the service "such rates and sums of money as the planters should agree to give." The office having been made assignable, was assigned by Neale to Andrew Hamilton, who applied to the General Court of Massachusetts for an Act fixing the rates of postage within that Colony. The Act, passed June 9, 1693, fixed the postage of a letter carried between Boston and Salem at three pence; between Boston and places further east, within the Province, at five pence; or Boston and Rhode Island, at six pence; and between Boston and Connecticut, Boston and New York, Boston and New Jersey or Pennsylvania, and Boston and Maryland or Virginia, at nine pence, twelve pence, fifteen pence, and two shillings respectively. There was even then early a penny post in Boston. "If any letters or packets shall lie and remain in the office undelivered, by the space of forty-eight hours, the postmaster then sending them forth to the respective houses of the persons to whom they are directed, shall receive one penny more for each letter or packet."

1692.—Sir Edmund Andros having been expelled from Boston, was sent back by King William to America as Governor of Virginia and Maryland. He laid Neale's patent before the Virginia Assembly, with a view to a similar arrangement to what was made in Massachusetts. But the scheme came to nothing "on account of the dispersed situations of the inhabitants."

1694, June 20.—Duncan Campbell, a Scotsman, Deputy-postmaster for New England, on behalf of the undertakers and Colonel Andrew Hamilton, Postmaster General, represented to the General Court that "the charges of his post office were thrice the income," and asked for a salary, whereupon the Court gave him twenty-five pounds a year for two years. He also asked the privilege of "retailing of strong drink and other liquors" free of the excise; a privilege which, he said, was enjoyed by "postmasters in other their Majesty's Plantations." But this it does not appear that the Court allowed.

1701.—Duncan Campbell died, and was succeeded by his son John as "Master of the Post Office of Boston and New England."

1710.—An Act of Parliament, providing for the establishment of post offices in all the Queen's dominions, authorized the Postmaster General to "keep one chief letter office in New York, and other chief offices at some convenient place or places in each of her Majesty's Provinces or Colonies in America." The legal postage for letters or parcels passing between London and New York was, if single, one shilling; if double, two shillings; if triple, three shillings; if weighing an ounce, four shillings. The single rate for letters and parcels passing between New York, Boston, Portsmouth, Newport, or Annapolis, and any place distant not more than sixty miles, was four pence, which payment was doubled, tripled, and quadrupled, or double and triple letters, and letters of an ounce weight.

1700-1720.—In the beginning of the last century, a succession of editors of newspapers were postmasters of Boston.—a thing not without ex-

ample in other times and places. John Campbell owned the *Boston News Letter*, the first newspaper in the Colonies; set up in 1704. To judge from one of his advertisements, he turned his position to account by the Postmaster General at home might have reckoned some official freedoms. He notifies to his patrons, who, without doubt, had the same desire as even now prevails, to get their writing through "the mails in the payment of newspaper postage, that, at his office, "an entire sheet of paper, now half with the news, and the other half good writing paper to write their letter on, may be had for every one that pleases to have it every Monday." William Brooker, Campbell's successor as postmaster, established in 1719, the *Boston Gazette*, the second newspaper in the Colonies, employing James Franklin, elder brother of Benjamin, as his printer. The *Boston Weekly Post-Boy*, dating from 1734, was also set up by the postmaster. It might almost seem as if, in our ancient times, that official, like an aspiring statesman of the present, expected to have a paper of his own.

1737.—In this year, Colonel Spotswood, then Postmaster General for the English Colonies, appointed Benjamin Franklin to be Postmaster of Philadelphia. Some of Franklin's advertisements, while he held this position, are instructive in respect to the amount of mail service then rendered. October 27, 1737, he published a notice that "the post office of Philadelphia is now kept by B. Franklin, in Market Street, and that Henry Pratt is appointed Riding Postmaster for all the stages between Philadelphia and Newport in Virginia, who sets out about the beginning of each month, and returns in twenty-four days; by whom gentlemen, merchants and others may have their letters carefully conveyed, and business faithfully transacted." At this time, Franklin advertised, as follows (April 14): "After this week, the Northern post will set out for New York on Thursdays, at three o'clock in the afternoon till Christmas, [after which it was to go once a fortnight during the winter.] The Southern post sets out next Monday at eight o'clock for Annapolis, and continues going every fortnight during the summer season."

1743, March 7.—Ellis Hulse and William Pepperell (afterwards Sir William, the hero of Louisburgh) gave a bond "in the sum of five hundred pounds sterling, to be paid to Head Lynch, Esq., Deputy Postmaster General of North America, in case the said Ellis Hulse should not faithfully discharge the office of Deputy-Postmaster of Boston, and the district thereto belonging."

1753.—By a commission from the Postmaster General of England Benjamin Franklin, jointly with William Hunter, was made Postmaster General for the Colonies.

1760, June 18.—A General Court of Massachusetts "voted that a carrier be employed to ride from Boston to Albany, and back again to Boston, once every fortnight during the present season, to carry the several public despatches that may be necessary to be sent, and also, that the said carrier carry to and from the soldiers in the service of the Province, such letters as they may write home, and as may be sent to them. And that such carrier be allowed for every such journey, and duly performing the same, the sum of six pounds out of the public treasury." At this time the troops of New England and New York were on their way, under General Amherst, to the attack on Montreal.

1768, Sept. 18.—A post rider got into trouble by doing his work in Massachusetts on Sunday. He petitioned the General Court for relief as follows, viz:

"The petition of David Hyde, of Boston, post rider, humbly sheweth,—

"That he was in the month of September last employed by the selectmen of Boston, to carry express to the selectmen of the other towns in this Province, relating to matters of public and important nature, which required the greatest despatch; he, therefore, thought himself obliged, in faithfulness to his employers, to ride from Belchertown to Montague on the 18th of September, being Lord's day; for which he was brought before the Honorable Court of Sessions for the County of Hampshire, convicted, and sentenced to pay a fine to the King of ten shillings, and had cos taxed at eighteen shillings, which with the expenses and loss of time, has been a considerable damage as well as trouble to your petitioner.

"Your petitioner presumes not to make any reflections upon the treatment he has received, but throws himself in the favor of the Honorable Court, praying that his case may be considered, and such redress given, as to your Excellency and Honors may seem meet. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray."

The Court considered the exigency of the case, and paid him one pound and eight shillings.

1774.—When, after twenty-one years' service, Franklin was discharged from the Postmaster Generalship by the British ministry as the Revolutionary crisis approached, he wrote in his Autobiography: "Before I was displaced by a freak of the ministers, we had brought the office to yield three times as much clear revenue to the Crown as the post office of Ireland. Since that impudent transaction, they have received from it—not one farthing."

1775, April 28.—[The week after Lexington fight] the Committee of Safety sitting at Cambridge "voted to recommend to the Colony Congress to be assembled in Watertown, and to be recommended accordingly, to make an establishment for post riders between the Massachusetts forces and the town of Worcester."

1775.—The Continental Congress made provision for a post office establishment; appointed Franklin Postmaster General, with a salary of a thousand dollars a year, and authorized him to establish such and so many post routes and post offices as he should think proper.

1777, May 16.—Jefferson wrote to John Adams from Williamsburg: "I wish the regulation of the post office, adopted by Congress last September, could be put in practice. It was for the riders to travel night and day, and to go for their several stages three times a week." May 26, Adams wrote to Jefferson from Philadelphia: "The post is now extremely regular from North and South, although it comes but once a week.

It is very difficult to get faithful riders to go offener. And the expense is very high, and the profits, so dear is everything, and so little correspondence except in franked letters, will not support the office. Mr. Hazard is now gone southward in the character of Surveyor of the Post Office, and I hope will have as good success as he lately had eastward, where he put the office into very good order." Franklin had been succeeded as Postmaster General by his son-in-law Richard Bache, and his successor was Ebenezer Hazard, who still held the place when the Government was organized under the Federal Constitution. Before the year was out, the office was given to Samuel Osgood. He resigned in 1792, and it was conferred on Timothy Pickens, and three years later on Judge Habersham, of Georgia, being still unaccompanied by a seat in the Cabinet.

1797.—In this year, the number of post offices in the United States was 480; the number of miles traveled by the mails 14,385; and the gross revenue \$46,000. In the last year of the last century, the gross revenue had increased to \$80,000.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

It is not imperatively necessary that a man should be a citizen to perform the marriage ceremony, for city mayors and country magistrates do it and do it well; nor that he should be a shoemaker or tailor to enable him to judge of the fit and finish of his hoods and breeches. It is not necessary that a captain of a steamer should be a practical engineer, a telescope maker an astronomer, or a sewing machine manufacturer a milliner. There is no reason why a dog fancier should be a zoologist, a tobacco chover a botanist, a gauger a spirit rapper, a rejected lover a suicide, a gay, handsome rich young widow a nun, an editor a millionaire, or a critic an author, artist or actor—certainly not—therefore upon this principle I must not be taken for a pedagogue because I attempt to teach, a cynic because I grumble, or a public functionary because I speak sometimes like one in authority.

I deprecate, however, my distrust of my motives or intentions—for they are honest—and have for their object the diffusion of piety, propriety and useful knowledge among the postal multitude.

If I only had the opportunity of meeting some of these officials, I would make good use of my time by personally appealing to their intelligence and judgment, and through those channels attempt to convince them that they commit, numberless errors which could be easily avoided, in a simple business which a novice could perform, and so confound special and general duties as to render their performance difficult, unpleasant and unsatisfactory. One of the most prominent faults is neglect of official instructions in regard to cancelling stamps. A postmark means something or nothing—and ought either to be carefully performed, or entirely abandoned. For business purposes it is invaluable, for reference generally it is very desirable, and for the recovery of lost letters it is almost a necessity. Why, I have received letters frequently with the post-mark so blurred and indistinct as to make me suspect that it was done intentionally for some sinister purpose. Postmasters! don't do it, nor allow your clerks to do it—it looks suspicious, and in the event of local trouble, it will make your record look bad. Therefore, don't.

Again—I have lost letters, and have had letters delayed so as to lose the good effects of their contents—and upon inquiry I have learned that they have been misused by mistake. Now can there be a good excuse for such carelessness? A green hand, to be sure, might err in learning, but for a skillful distributor to be guilty of such culpable work, is to my mind altogether inexcusable. I don't think that the distribution of mail matter is half as difficult as the distribution of type, yet a compositor will work at his case for hours and never throw a letter into the wrong box. Now if delicate pieces of metal can be so meticulously managed, why should not letters and papers, with supercriptions upon them plain and palpable? The fact is, the wish to be considered "fast" is paramount to the desire of being considered cautious—hence the annoyance. In this case "slow and sure" should be made the scale by which to measure the capacity of a clerk for such duty—and 240 folks should be put at something else.

Speaking of delays, I do not want to be understood as insinuating or asserting that they always occur in post offices. In its desperate industry effort to swell itself to the proud proportions of such a "King" as cotton whilom was foolishly supposed to be—the railway monopoly throughout the land has striven to subject every other interest to its will and caprice; and to prevent complaints from quarters which the Department would listen to and act upon, "free passes" and local patronage are resorted to—and it works like a charm. Mails are carried when and how it suits, without reference to their safety, convenience, quick despatch or prompt delivery. Everything else is hurried forward—but when mails are detained, whether by accident or design, and which is frequently the case, it creates no regret, excites no sor-

prise, and there is none so poor as to do them reverence.

There are honorable exceptions, I am glad to admit. One reason of this disrespect and indifference towards the mail service is to be found, I think, in the fact that a very great proportion of the correspondence between railway people is conducted outside of the mails and without payment of postage. Letters marked "R. R. B." are constantly being conveyed by employees from town to town and from station to station, in which there may be a very little "railroad business" and a great deal of something else—love, law and politics; business and pleasure; sales and purchases; supplies and demand; religion and mesmerism; petroleum and Fenianism; agriculture and finance, and various other topics are no doubt discussed in these unpaid epistles, at a great saving of expense in the aggregate to the writers, but certainly defrauding the Post Office Department of that amount of just revenue.

The late cold snap rather abridged my opportunities for general observation, but I promise you that I will soon mount my spectacles and grasp my baize satchel again—and crowned with a new broad-brim, I will go forth with philanthropy in my heart and charity in my eye to do all the good I can.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

Organization of the Department.

At the request of numerous correspondents, we publish below a statement of the organization of the Department, with the functions assigned to each of its officers and bureaus. Postmasters will find the statement useful for reference when in doubt as to the proper heads of the Department to whom to address their various communications:

The direction and management of the Post Office Department are assigned by the Constitution and laws to the Postmaster General. That its business may be the more conveniently arranged and prepared for its final action, it is distributed among several bureaus, as follows: The Appointment Office, in charge of the First Assistant Postmaster General; the Contract Office, including the Inspection Division, in charge of the Second Assistant Postmaster General; the Finance Office, in charge of the Third Assistant Postmaster General; and the Money Order Office, in charge of its Superintendent.

APPOINTMENT OFFICE.—This First Assistant Postmaster General: To this office are assigned all questions which relate to the establishment and discontinuance of post offices, changes of sites, and names, appointment and removal of postmasters, routes and local agents, also the giving of instructions to postmasters. Postmasters are furnished with marking and rating stamps and letter balances by this bureau, which is also charged with providing blanks and stationery for the use of the Department, and with the superintendence of the several agencies established for supplying postmasters with blanks. To this bureau is likewise assigned the supervision of the Ocean Mail Steamship Lines, and of the Foreign Postal arrangements.

CONTRACT OFFICE.—The Second Assistant Postmaster General: To this office is assigned the business of arranging the mail service of the United States, and placing the same under contracts embracing all correspondence and proceedings respecting the frequency of trips, mode of conveyance, and times of departures and arrivals on all the routes, the course of the mail between the different sections of the country, the points of mail distribution, and the regulation for the Government of the domestic mail service of the United States. It prepares the advertisements for mail proposals, receives the bids, and takes charge of the annual and occasional mail lettings, and the adjustment and execution of the contracts. All applications for the establishment or alteration of mail arrangements, and for mail messengers, should be sent to this office. All claims should be submitted to this office for transportation service not under contract. From this office all postmasters at the ends of routes receive the statement of mail arrangements, prescribed for the respective routes, and to it application should be made for mail bags, locks and keys. It reports weekly to the Auditor all contracts executed, and all orders affecting accounts for mail transportation; prepares the statistical exhibits of the mail service, and the reports of the mail lettings, giving a statement of each bid; also of the contracts made, the new service originated, the curtailments ordered, and the additional allowances granted within the year.

INSPECTION DIVISION.—This division, formerly a distinct office, is now merged in and made part of the Contract Office. To this division is assigned the duty of receiving and examining the registers of the arrivals and departures of the mails, certificates of the service of route agents, and reports of mail failures; noting the delinquencies of contractors, and preparing cases thereon for the action of the Postmaster General; furnishing blanks for mail registers, reports of mail failures, and other duties which may be necessary to secure a faithful and exact performance of all mail contracts.

All cases of mail deprivation or violation of law by private expressors, or by the forging or illegal use of postage stamps, are under the supervision of this office, and should be reported to it.

All communications respecting lost money, letters, mail deprivations, or other violations of law, should be directed to "Contract Office, Inspection Division, Post Office Department." All registers of the arrivals and departures of the mails, certificates of the service of route agents, and clerks in railway post offices, reports of mail failures, applications for blank registers, and reports of failures, and all complaints against contractors for irregular or imperfect service, should be directed to "Contract Office, Inspection Division, Post Office Department."

FINANCE OFFICE.—The Third Assistant Postmaster General: To this office is assigned the issuing of warrants and drafts in payment of bal-

ances reported by the Auditor to be due to mail contractors and other persons, and the superintendence of the rendition by postmasters of their quarterly returns of postage. It has charge of the Dead-Letter Office and of the issuing of postage stamps and stamped envelopes for the prepayment of postage.

To the Third Assistant Postmaster General all postmasters should direct their quarterly returns of postage; those at draft offices their letters reporting quarterly the net proceeds of their offices, and those at depositing offices their certificates of deposit; to him should also be directed the weekly and monthly returns of the depositaries of the department, as well as all applications and receipts for postage stamps and stamped envelopes, and for dead letters.

MONEY ORDER OFFICE.—To this office is assigned the general supervision and control of the postal money order system throughout the United States.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Jewelry and Lottery Swindlers.

ILL. Jan., 1866.

Editor U. S. Mail: I have been (in common, no doubt, with hundreds of other postmasters), seriously annoyed by the repeated complaints of persons who have been so foolish as to post letters in my office, containing money, and addressed to some of the numerous swindling rascals who are flooding the country, through the mails, with their lying circulars, some offering to send, by means of the "certificate" system, gold and silver watches, chains, diamond breast-pins, rings, &c., for sums far below their value—and others offering (on condition that the lucky fellow to whom it is sent, will "show the greenbacks" to his friends) to insure a "prize of at least \$5,000 in a Kentucky lottery, for the moderate sum of \$10. I am sorry to say that a good many simpletons living in my neighborhood have sent money to these rascals, and—of course having received no return—have been ever since calling at the office and making complaints to me, some of them showing letters from the swindlers, which they had received in reply to their inquiries why the "watch" or the "\$5,000 prize" had not been sent. These replies state "we have received no money from you, and if you sent any it has been lost in the post office." "Your letter must have been lost in the mail!" "You had better call and see your postmaster," &c., &c. Not a few of the victims have gone so far as to hint that their money never left this post office. Now this thing was getting to be such a decided nuisance that I cudgelled my brains to devise a scheme to put a stop to it, and finally hit upon the following, which I am glad to say has "worked to a charm."

I caused a few copies of the following handbill to be struck-off, and posted them conspicuously in the post office—one just over the letter-drop:

"TAKE WARNING!
"BEWARE OF JEWELRY & LOTTERY SWINDLERS!
"All persons doing business at this post office are hereby cautioned against sending money to the swindlers who are constantly sending through the mails fraudulent circulars, offering Jewelry, Chains, Rings, and Diamonds, &c., for sums far below their value. These who issue these circulars are all CHATS AND SWINDLERS, and all persons are warned against sending them money through the mails as they are in the habit of pocketing it and denying its receipt. Take no notice of their circulars if they are sent to you."

Since the adoption of this plan, I have had very little trouble with complaints of the "loss" of letters sent in the mails; and many a greenhorn, who had enclosed his \$5 or \$10 "greenback" in a letter addressed to some of them, has been induced, by reading the above handbill, to keep his money for a better purpose than throwing it away on these Jeremy Diddlers. I wish every postmaster in the country would post up such a notice (either printed or plainly written) in his office. It would be a benefit both to the public and the Post Office Department, on which these villains throw the blame of their knavish tricks. Yours, &c.,
G. E. P. M.

Three boys at New Haven, Conn., under 12 years of age, have been detected in quite extensive mail roberies and forgeries. One of the boys had in his pocket when arrested a check for \$3,300. They are said to be the sons of respectable and worthy parents.

Letter Addresses.
Mr. Postmaster, of Ashland, don't frown, my good friend, because to Ohio this letter I send, With rhyming address—when with specs on your nose. You attempt to decipher the place where it goes, And wonder that those who send letters to you Cannot plainly direct them as other folks do. It is simply enough when no other party Will ask for this letter save Miss Kate McCarty. Put your specs in your case, and don't trouble your brains. These stanzas have cost me no end of pains. There is no rhyme left, and the very next time When I write there shan't be a vestige of rhyme.

STILL ANOTHER.
To the dear town of Ashland, named after Old Harry, In the county of Ashland, this letter please carry; Where the men of Ohio, in their might like the fates, Cut the throat of the traitor who "watches and waits." In that embryo city, where girls are so sweet, Just choose on the sweetest and lay at her feet. This letter of mine, so blooming and hearty, You certainly cannot in his office, It will be a Don't tell her what's in it, but quiet and canny, Say, bearer will wait for an answer to Nannie.

Now, you go across To John Quackenboss, Whose middle initial is "D." A rollicking blade, he's The pet of the ladies. And honors their wits to a "T." In New York a street, As straight as "his net, West end, eight added to twenty; Go past every door, Till you stand on one before Say 201—that's a plenty. Don't hang no poet— My doggerel will show it; My love of *entree* I'll retire on; But Johnny well knows— The first "indeed, shows" It's from his fast friend, "exalted" MIRON.

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WHOLE No. 66.

Opening Letters in the British Post Office.

We copy from Mr. Wm. Lewins' "History of the British Post Office," an interesting account of the investigation into the fact—the revelation of which created so great an excitement at the time—that it was a practice of the British Government to open letters passing through the Post Office for the purpose of defeating certain political plots against foreign governments. It is proper to say that this investigation led to a total abandonment of the system; and we print the article simply as a reminiscence of the past, and not as reflecting upon the present management of the British Office.

It will be fresh in the memory of many readers, that the year 1844 revealed to the public certain usages of the British Government, and a branch of post-office business—previously kept carefully in the dark—which went far to destroy the confidence of the nation in the sanctity of its correspondence. In the session of 1844, Mr. Thomas S. Duncombe presented a petition from Mr. W. J. Linton, M. Mazzini, and two other persons residing at 47, Devonshire Street, Queen's Square, complaining that their letters were regularly detained and opened at the Post Office. The petitioners declared that they "considered such a practice, introducing the spy-system of foreign states, as repugnant to every principle of the British constitution, and a subject of that public confidence which was due to a commercial country." The petitioners prayed for an inquiry, and Mr. Duncombe supported their prayer. Sir James Graham, then Home Secretary, got up in the House and stated that, as regarded three of the petitioners, their letters had not been detained; as for the case of M. Mazzini, a warrant had been obtained from the Home-Office to stop and open the correspondence of that person. He had the power by law and he exercised it. "The authority," said Sir James, "was vested in the responsible Ministers of the Crown, and was intrusted to them for the public safety; and while Parliament placed its confidence in the individual exercising such a power, it was not for the public good to pry or inquire into the particular causes which called for the exercise thereof." He hoped that the House would confide in his motives, and that they would not call upon him to answer any further inquiries. The speech of the Home Secretary added fuel to the same. Had Sir James Graham entered more fully into the subject, and gone into the real state of the law, it is probable that the subject might have been allowed to drop. Not only was the slightest explanation of the principles adopted refused by the Home Secretary, but that refusal was given somewhat cavalierly. Public attention was thus roused; the most exaggerated reports were spread, and was openly stated by the press that a gigantic system of espionage had been established at St. Martin's-le-Grand, and now no mere general assurances of its unreality could dispel the talk or stop newspaper-extravaganzas. Sir James Graham was abused most unreasonably. There was hardly a public print or public speaker in the kingdom that did not heap insults or expressions of disgust on his name. This state of things could not continue; accordingly, we find Lord Radnor, moving soon after in the House of Lords, for a return of all warrants which had been issued for the detention of letters during a certain period, animadverting especially upon the alleged practice of general warrants, or intercepting all letters addressed to a certain person instead of there being issued a separate warrant in the case of each letter. This mode of proceeding as he truly said, if noted upon, was a flagrant violation of the words of the statute. Lord Campbell expressed the same views. Lord Brougham observed that the first statute conferring this power had been framed by Lord Somers. It had been continued ever since by various Acts, and had been exercised by Sir Robert Walpole, Lord Greaville, and Mr. Fox, as well as under the administrations of Lord Grey and Lord Melbourne. If Lord Campbell's construction of the Act were correct, the sooner they had a new one the better. Lord Denham was for putting an end to the power altogether. The return was granted, the Duke of Wellington approving the Home Secretary's conduct notwithstanding.

On the 24th of June, 1844, Mr. Duncombe again called the attention of the House of Commons to the subject, by presenting a petition from Mr. Charles Stolman, a Polish refugee, complaining that his letters had been detained and opened. Mr. Duncombe contended that the Act of 1837 never meant to confer an authority upon a Minister of the Crown to search out the secrets of exiles resident in this country at the instance of foreign Governments, but was only designed to meet the case of domestic treason. "Mr. Stolman was a friend of M. Mazzini," said Mr. Duncombe, "and this was why his letters had been tampered with." After describing the way in which letters were opened, he concluded a most powerful speech by again moving for a committee of inquiry. He did not want to know Government secrets; he doubted if they were worth knowing; but he wanted to inquire into the practice of the Department, which he considered was unconstitutional and contrary to law. Sir James Graham, without entering into any further explanation, except saying that the law had not been violated, and that if it had, the honorable member might prove it before a legal tribunal, objected strongly, and in almost a defiant manner, to any committee. Mr. Macaulay, Lord Howick, Mr. Peel, and Lord John Russell warmly supported the motion for an inquiry. Sir Robert Peel, Lord Stanley, and Mr. Monckton Miles opposed it, when it was rejected by a majority of forty-four. What party speeches failed in doing, the clamour and the popular tumult outside at length accomplished. Popular ridicule settled upon the subject; and pen and post set to work upon it with a will. Newspapers were unusually, and sometimes unreasonably, free in their comments, and all kinds of stories about the Post-Office went the round of the press. Sir James Graham had to bear the brunt of the whole business; whereas the entire blame, but especially Lord Aberdeen, the Foreign Secretary, ought equally to have shared the opprobrium. As it was, the bearing of the Home Secretary in the House of Commons was singularly unwise and unadroit. The subject had now come to be regarded as of too great

public importance to be suffered to rest; besides, it was an attractive one for the Opposition side of the House. Mr. Duncombe renewed his motion towards the end of July in the same session. It was in a slightly altered form, inasmuch as he now moved for a select committee "to inquire into a department of Her Majesty's Post-Office commonly called 'the secret or inner office,' the duties and employment of the persons engaged therein, and the authority under which the functions of the said office were discharged." Mr. Duncombe made some startling statements as to the mode and extent of the practice of letter-opening, all of which he declared he could prove if the committee was granted. The Government saw the necessity of giving way, in order that the public mind might be quieted. The Home Secretary now acknowledged, that since he was last questioned on the subject, the matter had assumed a very serious aspect, and he thought it was time that the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, should be told. Though he would have readily endured the obliquity cast upon him, even though it should embolden him, rather than injure the public service; and though he had endeavored much, especially after the votes and speeches of the Opposition leaders—all men conversant with official duties—in favour of Mr. Duncombe's former motions, he now felt himself relieved from his late reserve, and felt bound to confess that he believed it to be impossible to maintain the power conferred to him longer without a full inquiry. He would now not only consent to the committee, but would desire that it should make the fullest possible inquiry, and he would promise on his part, not only to state all he knew, but lend all the resources of his Department to assist that object. In accordance with this determination he proposed that the Committee should be a secret one, invested with the amplest powers to commence the investigation at once, and should be composed of five usually voting against the Government, viz., Sir C. Lemon, Mr. Warburton, Mr. Strutt, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. O'Connell, and four who generally support them, viz., Lord Sandon (chairman), Mr. T. Baring, Sir W. Heathcote, and Mr. H. Drummond. "To this committee," said Sir James, "I gladly submit my personal honour and my official conduct, and I make my submission without fear." The committee was appointed after Mr. Wilson Patten's name had been substituted for Mr. Drummond's on account of the latter being a lawyer; and after an unsuccessful attempt to add Mr. Duncombe's name, which was rejected by 128 to 52. Its object was "to inquire into the state of the law with respect to the detaining of letters in the General Post-Office, and to the mode in which that power had been exercised, and that the Committee should have power to send for persons, documents, and records, and to report the result of their inquiry to the House." A Committee of the House of Lords was appointed at the same time. Sir James Graham's examination lasted four days, when he fulfilled his pledge to make a full and unreserved disclosure of all he knew. Almost all the members of that noble body confessed to having done the same as Sir James Graham when he held the scale of the Home-Office, though he had not used the power so frequently. He also stated that he supported Mr. Duncombe in his previous motions for inquiry, because he thought it necessary that the public should have the information asked for. Lord Northampton was the first to ask for Lord Radnor to be sworn in, in order to detect "low ribbonism, which could not be ferreted out by other means." Lord Tankerville testified to the existence of a warrant signed by Mr. Fox in 1782, ordering the detention and opening of all letters addressed to foreign ministers; another, ordering that all the letters addressed to Lord George Gordon be opened. Witnesses were also brought from the Post-Office, Mr. Duncombe, on being asked for a list of witnesses to prove his allegations, refused to hand in their names unless he were allowed to be present during the examination. This the Committee had no power to grant, and consequently he declined to proceed. Mr. Duncombe appealed to the House, but the decision of the Committee was confirmed.

No considerable part of the Committee's time was taken up in the production and examination of records, acts, and precedents bearing on the subject. The officers of the State Paper Office and other high Government functionaries produced records and State papers of great importance from which we learn many interesting particulars of early postal history. At some risk of being charged with anachronism, we have thought it desirable to introduce these details in the order of the subject under treatment.

James I. in establishing a foreign post, was more anxious that Government secrets should not be disclosed to foreign countries, which could not be prevented if a promiscuous use of transmitting foreign letters and packets should be suffered, than that the post should be of use to traders and merchants. There was a motive for the jealous monopoly of postal communications; and if the proclamation from which the above is taken (Byrne's Edition) is not clear on the subject, the following extract from a letter written by the one of James's secretaries to the other, Lord Conway, is sufficiently explicit: "Your Lordship best knoweth what account we shall be able to give in our place in Parliament of that which passeth by letters in and out of the land. If every man may carry letters as he chooses." Sir John Coke, the writer of the above, would even have got rid of the difficulty in a thorough manner, if we may believe an English letter-writer addressing a friend in Scotland, when he wrote, "I hear the poets are waylaid, and all letters taken from them and brought to Secretary Coke."

During the Commonwealth, of course, letter opening was to be expected. The very reason which Cromwell gave for establishing the posts was that they would be "the best means of discovering and preventing many wicked designs against the Commonwealth, Intelligence whereof cannot well be communicated but by letter or script." Foreign and home letters were alike opened, and the names of the Venetian ambassador removed openly; that his letters had been delayed and read, and it was not until, after the restoration, a distinct clause in the "Post-Office Charter" provided that "no one, except under the immediate warrant of one of our principal Secretaries of State, shall presume to open any letters or packets not directed unto themselves."

Under the improved Act of Queen Anne, 1711, it is again stated that "no person or persons shall presume to open, detain, or delay any letter or letters, after the same is or shall be delivered into the General or other Post-Office, and before delivery to the persons to whom they are addressed, except by an express warrant in writing under the hand or hands of the principal Secretaries of State for every such opening, detaining, or delaying." This Act was continued under all the Georges, and again agreed to in 1837, under the reign of C. 32.

During the last century, the practice of granting warrants was exceedingly common; and they might have been had on the most trivial pretences. It was not the practice to record such warrants regularly in any official book, and few are so recorded; we can only guess their number from the frequent mention made of them in the state trials of the period, and in other incidental ways. In 1723, at Bishop Atterbury's trial, copies of the letters were produced and given in evidence against him. A clerk from the Post-Office testified to the fact that they had passed through the post, and that he had seen them opened, read, and copied. Atterbury, as well he might, asked for the authority for this practice; and, especially, if the Secretary of State had directed that his letters should be intercepted? A majority in the House of Lords decided that the question need not be answered. It is pleasant to relate that twenty-nine peers came to the aid of the prisoner against this decision. One of them proposed to cross-examine the Bishop's witnesses, "one of his Majesty's Post-Office decipherers," but the majority going to a still greater length, resolved; "That it is the opinion of the House that it is not consistent with the public safety to ask the decipherers any questions which may tend to discover the art or mystery of deciphering." Again, at the trial of Horne Tooke in 1795, a letter written to him by Mr. Joyce, a printer, was intercepted at the Post-Office, and was stated by the prisoner to be the immediate occasion of his apprehension. On his requiring its production, a duly certified copy was brought into Court by the Crown, and given in evidence.

Twelve years after the trial of Bishop Atterbury, members of both Houses became alarmed for the safety of their correspondence, and succeeded in getting up an agitation on the subject. Several members of the House of Commons complained that their letters had been opened. Revelations were made at this time which remind us strongly of the episode of 1844, both discussions resulting in a parliamentary committee of inquiry, which was stated in the debate of 1844 to be the very party which the Act gave to the system of prepayment of postage. Old times are past. New times are upon us. And this demand that progression must be applied to the Post Office Department as well as to the army and navy. Look at the ordnance improvements now in use? No. But the Springfield rifle of 1865. Let the Post Office Department use the same calibre, by loading up the cartridges of universal preparation of all kinds of United States postage. It will only require one or two volleys, or one or two rounds from the new guns to convince all of the superior applications of this law. As I have carried a musket for over four years, I ought to know something about them. This law will enable the Post Office Department to resist all the attacks of the due, and will relieve the many thousands of postmasters from the painful necessity of demanding postage, or withholding the mail matter. Many postmasters pay the postage often, because they cannot collect it, and would rather do so than to have the matter in their offices, while the writer has but little doubt that thousands of dollars of postage is not paid, because it is not reported, but not intentionally, on the part of postmasters, but because the matter is often transient, and only comes occasionally. Let us have prepayment on all printed matter.

Whether any real improvement took place may best be judged by the following circumstances. Walpole, who doubtless carried his prerogative in those matters beyond any two Secretaries of State, without voucher of any kind, to the public and private applications of individuals, issuing warrants even to further cases of private tyranny. In the Report of the Secret Committee, p. 12, we find that a warrant is granted, in 1741, for what purpose may be judged by the following: "At the request of A. a warrant is issued to permit A's eldest son to open and inspect any letters which A's youngest son might write to females, one of which that youngest son had imprudently married." And this inquisitorial spirit beginning with the highest, descended even to the lowest class of officials. A writer in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, vol. xviii, p. 405 (quoting from the *State Trials*, vol. xviii, p. 1309), tells us, in relation to this subject, that so little attention was paid to the requirements of the Act of Queen Anne, or the Committee of the House of Commons just referred to, the very hellen took to scrutinizing the letters given them for their bags. One of those functionaries was examined at the trial of Dr. Hensley in 1758, and gave the following answer: "What I have to say in relation to this subject, is that so little attention was paid to the requirements of the Act of Queen Anne, or the Committee of the House of Commons just referred to, the very hellen took to scrutinizing the letters given them for their bags. 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UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.
Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK.
J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1865.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, NEW YORK.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Directly after the passage of the above resolution, Mr. ALLEY, chairman of the Post Office Committee, introduced the bill referred to in our last, authorizing the sale of postage stamps and stamped envelopes by agents, at a commission of five per cent. Mr. ALLEY caused to be read a letter from the Postmaster General, in which the latter says the object of the bill is to enable the Department to circulate and sell stamps in the States lately in the rebellion.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term in which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding volume number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whose time number reaches, marked 65 or 66, will please remit at once.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them at as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore rapidly understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them advantage of the latest official information on the postal matters.

Through an error of the mailing clerk, several copies of the January number of the Mail were sent to subscribers, instead of that for February. If those who suffered through this mistake will notify the publisher, it will be corrected by sending them a February number.

If any of our readers (especially postmasters) desire to obtain full and trustworthy information concerning the operations of the winding lorry and jewelry gentry who have been doing so large a business through the mails, we advise them to procure a copy of the *American Agriculturist* for March, which contains a full exposure of these matters. The *Agriculturist* is a first-class "live" newspaper, published by Orange Judd, New York, at \$1 per year.

LUDWIG BLANKER—At a fair held at Dundee, Scotland, lately, many persons were greatly amused to watch the proceedings of a simple country girl, who, with a letter in her hand, stood for some time in a hesitating way, near one of the street "pillar boxes" for the reception of letters, and, after rapping on the top with her knuckles sharply several times, without eliciting any response, at length applied her mouth to the office and testily inquired, "Can ye no sell a body a postage stamp?"

"TITTLE" DEPRAVED—Our readers' old acquaintance, "Jason H. Tuttle," formerly of Flatbrookville in the same State, where he is carrying one of his "little games" which have for their object the relief of the overstocked parson of fools, lately came to pecuniary grief as follows: Desiring to obtain from the post office at the last mentioned place a large number of letters which had accumulated there, containing remittances from persons who had invested in his benevolent "gift enterprise," but, with becoming modesty, desiring also to avoid personal contact with any "minions of the law" who might possibly be in waiting at the P. O. to receive him—was entrusted a youthful relative with an order for the letters, which was duly presented and honored; but sad to relate, the young man, profiting, perhaps by the example his kinsman's peculiar mode of doing business had offered, appropriated the letters to his own use and departed. At last someone Jason was still in pursuit of the "golden fleece" (estimated at between \$400 and \$500) of which he had been so rashly a victim. May he succeed as he desires—even if he is obliged to travel as far as the State of Virginia.

The Post Office Bills in Congress.
On the 14th inst., the House passed the Senate Bill authorizing an increase by the Postmaster General to the clerical force in the Post Office Department at Washington—consisting of twenty nine additional clerks. The amount of labor which has been thrown upon the Department through the resumption of postal communication with the Southern States rendered this increase absolutely necessary for the proper performance of the business of the Department.

On the same day a resolution was passed by the House, appointing Postmaster KELLY, Mayor HOFFMAN, District Attorney DICKINSON, A. A. Low, Esq., President of the New York Chamber of Commerce, and JACKSON S. SHELTON, Esq., a Committee to select a proper site for a building for a post office and the accommodation of the United States Courts in the city of New York, to report to the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Interior. The introduction of the resolution elicited some discussion, in the course of which Hon. Wm. A. DARLINO, of New York, said that he

"Thought that citizens of New York, with their usual liberality would donate a site for a post office, so that proper arrangements could be made for the convenience of the people, and also for the United States Courts. The present post office building is contracted, ill ventilated, dark and very difficult of approach. The present building was not suitable for a city like New York. Persons have to form in line, and sometimes have to stand in mud and water waiting their turn to procure letters. It was a disgrace to the nation that there should be such a place for a post office as exists to-day."

Which latter sentiment all of Mr. DARLINO'S constituents will heartily endorse.

Directly after the passage of the above resolution, Mr. ALLEY, chairman of the Post Office Committee, introduced the bill referred to in our last, authorizing the sale of postage stamps and stamped envelopes by agents, at a commission of five per cent. Mr. ALLEY caused to be read a letter from the Postmaster General, in which the latter says the object of the bill is to enable the Department to circulate and sell stamps in the States lately in the rebellion.

It was further explained that the present bill did not provide for the sale of stamps on credit, as was provided by a former bill. The bill was the subject of considerable discussion, and the "morning hour" having expired, it went over.

On the 15th the consideration of the same subject was resumed, and led to an extended debate, when the whole matter was finally postponed for two weeks.

Mr. ALLEY then introduced the Bill to amend the Postal Laws, which authorizes the Postmaster-General to sell postage-stamped envelopes for newspapers or letters at the value of the stamps impressed upon them, and allow dead letters to be returned free of postage, and prepaid letters to be forwarded at request of the person addressed to another post office, without additional charge, and also letters indorsed, "to be returned to the writer," shall be free of postage on their return. It also authorizes the transportation of mails by sailing vessels and from foreign ports, at a cost not exceeding six postage. The mode of advertising letters is left with the Postmaster General. The money-order rates are made 10 cents on \$30, 25 cents on \$40 and 30 cents on \$50. The order shall be good for one year.

The consideration of this bill was also postponed for two weeks.

Postal Troubles—One of their Causes.

None of our post-official readers need be informed that verbal complaints on the part of the public, of the failure of mail-matter to reach its destination, are of not infrequent occurrence at nearly every post office throughout the country—nor that it is not an unheard-of thing for editors and correspondents at newspapers to indulge in wrathful denunciations of the carelessness, delay, want of punctuality, and general disregard of the public convenience which, they allege—apropos of some special grievance—characterizes the performance of the postal business of the country. Now, no one connected with the service can deny that there are carelessness, negligence, and disregard of the public convenience on the part of some of the subordinates connected with the post office—as there are on the part of some of those belonging to every branch of the public service. The existence of these faults is to be regretted, but cannot well be ignored; and complaints resulting from them are entitled to respectful hearing and prompt action in the way of redress, or punishment of the offenders. That such complaints are more frequent in regard to the postal than any of the other branches of the government service, is no doubt due to the fact that in none of those other branches are so many persons employed, and that the operations in none of them are of such a nature as to bring them into so immediate contact with the business and social interests of all classes of the community. There is no doubt, moreover, that to the system of rotation to office, which has grown to be an apparently inseparable portion of our public policy, many of the shortcomings complained of are referable—but the Post Office Department is no more responsible for the establishment or perpetuation of that system than it is for the acts of a buried generation. Our present purpose, however, is not so much to defend the post office against complaints of the kind we have mentioned, as to endeavor to show that on at least one point it has an undoubted ground of counter-complaint against the public.

The task of conveying and delivering the correspondence of a population so large and intel-

ligent as is that of this country, covering a geographical space so immense as ours, is no light one, and needs for its proper performance every assistance and facility which can be rendered to it. And yet in one most important matter, a large number of the people, for whose benefit the postal system is carried on, and who are so ready to criticize and complain of any symptom of its mismanagement, do quite as much to embarrass and obstruct its operations as any amount of heedlessness and inefficiency on the part of its subordinates could do. We refer to the careless, incomplete and slovenly manner in which a very great number of the letters passing through the United States mails are addressed.

An examination of the precise, carefully written addresses of the great majority of letters arriving here from foreign countries, and a comparison with the average of those of our domestic letters, will show that in no country in the world is so little pains taken by the writers of mail letters to ensure their prompt and proper delivery as in this. It is not an uncommon thing to hear, from persons complaining of delays, &c., in the post office, of the superiority of the express system over this institution. Without stopping to notice such statements—further than to say that we believe they are generally made without due knowledge of the facts, and that express blunders, delays and losses are at least equal, in proportion, to those occurring in the post office—we can safely assert that no express company would undertake to deliver, properly, packages addressed with so little care as are hundreds of thousands of the letters daily deposited in the post office. A merchant who would not think of forwarding goods by express, without first causing the packages to be plainly and carefully marked with the name, occupation, and exact address of the person for whom they are intended, has no hesitation in depositing in the post office a valuable letter directed simply to the name and city of residence of the same person—though the name may be one borne by a dozen persons in the same city. He knows for whom he intends it—he has bought and affixed his stamp, entrusted his letter to the post office—and let the post office look to it that it reaches his correspondent and no one else, or beware his wrath and a denunciatory communication in the newspaper.

It is unreasonable and unjust to demand of the post office that it shall do more than convey and deliver mail matter according to its address and the best of its ability. Where that address is incomplete, however, the post office does more; it endeavors to supply the writer's lack of care, and adopts every means in its power to ascertain what the address does not indicate, viz.: the actual person for whom it is intended—and deliver it. It cannot always do this, and it is of course likely that errors and delays in delivery will sometimes occur in such cases—but the blame of those errors and delays rests not with the post office, but with the public.

This difficulty is of course more common in the large cities than elsewhere. At the smaller towns, a letter, if bearing a correct name, even if no occupation, street or number be given, stands a much better chance of prompt and correct delivery than a similar letter would in New York or Boston, for reasons which are obvious. Take, for an example, the case of such a letter arriving at the New York Office, and simply directed to "Wm. H. Taylor, New York." By the city directory for the present year, it appears that seven persons bear that name who reside or do business there. Each of those persons has an equal claim to the letter, so far as can be judged by the address—and yet the one person among the seven for whom it is really intended probably expects that it should be promptly delivered to him, and to him only—with what degree of reason any fair-minded person is capable of saying.

"But," says one of these Messrs. Taylor, when he calls to complain of the delay or non-receipt of a letter addressed as above, "I have a box, and pay rent therefor; and it is the business of your post office gentlemen to know the names of your boxholders, and to place their letters in those boxes."

So it is, Mr. T.; but perhaps you are not aware that the number of those boxes is nearly 6,000; that in each of these are placed, in addition to the letters addressed to the individual or firm in whose name the box is rented, those which are addressed to (on an average) five other persons in some way connected, as special partners, agents, clerks, &c., with those individuals or firms; that together, these form an aggregate of about 36,000 names, each of which, in connection with its appropriate box-number, it is requisite should be remembered by the sorting-clerks and those whose duty it is to place the letters each in its proper box; that an average of about 128,000 letters per day are received at the New York Office; that as each of them passes through the hands of the sorting-clerks they are obliged to decide, at once—1st, whether the person or firm to whom the letter is addressed is a box-holder, or whether it should be delivered by a carrier or placed in the general delivery to be called for; 2d, if addressed to a box-holder, to what particular "section" of the boxes (which are divided into five sections) the letter should be sent for boxing; that in case the letter is found to be intended for a box-holder, the clerk in charge of that "section" has then to decide in which particular box the letter belongs; that the doing of all this with unvarying correctness, even in the case of properly directed letters, requires the possession by the clerks of memories little short of superhuman—and that it is rather a matter of surprise that so few errors occur in such cases as yours that for complaint when one does occur. The letter—being addressed simply to your name, and no occupation, street or number being given, bore on its face absolutely nothing to guide the clerks in deciding how, where and to whom it should be delivered. If they happen to decide wrongly and your letter is delayed, or even

lost, blame your correspondent (or perhaps yourself, for neglecting to instruct him, as to your proper address,) but do not blame the post office or its clerks, who have done the best they could with the imperfect lights you and your correspondent have vouchsafed to them.

This article is already extended beyond its proposed limits. We shall refer to the subject again; and for the present conclude by saying that in our opinion a remedy for a very large number of complaints against the post office would be found in the establishment of a regulation by the Department that on and after a certain future date, it will not be responsible, in any way, (though continuing all proper efforts in that direction) for the correct delivery of any mail matter, unless the same shall be properly addressed—If intended for a large city, to a box-number, [and by the way, the intensely absurd fear, on the part of many box holders, lest any publicity should be given to their box numbers, is something neither new nor can be reasonably accounted for,] or to a street and number; or if neither of these be known by the writer, that the occupation, at least, of the person addressed shall follow his name.

When the people of this country exercise half the care that those of other countries do in addressing their mail letters, we shall have no more than half the present number of complaints from them of the annoyances of an inefficient postal service.

Answers to Correspondents.

Quarterly Returns, &c.—A. G. D. L.—Can't pursue the old system of making out your returns until you receive the proper notification. The answer to your second question is embraced in the above.

Application for Regulations, &c.—J. W. T. P.—Apply to the Postmaster General, Washington, D. C.

Postage to Port au Prince.—J. F. H. O.—Ohio—Postage to Port au Prince is 34 cents. To all British West Indies 10 cents, the same as to Brazil. Letters to the West Indies are forwarded by new line of steamers to Brazil.

Stopping Letters in Transit.—H. H. C. L. M.—Your question is this—Post Office "B" is discontinued. "C" is the nearest office. Persons whose P. O. address has been "B," residing near "A," desire to receive their letters at "A," where the mail for "C" is made up, thereby saving several miles' travel and several days' delay, as "C" only receives a mail semi-weekly. The regulation of the Department respecting mail matter in transit for discontinued offices, like the majority of regulations or laws, cannot cover every possible exception. Postmasters should be careful to follow their instructions as near as possible; but expediency would suggest that, in cases like the above, a departure from the strict rule may be permitted, if the parties addressed make application in writing for their letters at "A." Of course the Postmaster may refuse to deliver such letters, if he chooses to do so; but where all parties are agreed, we see no reason why the persons addressed may not be accommodated.

Mis-sending Mail Matter.—J. R. I. P.—The Postmaster of whom you complain persists in his wrong practice, in spite of your request and in defiance of law, report him to the Department without delay. Such action is extremely reprehensible.

Congressional Globe.—R. K. S. M. C.—The Congressional Globe and Appendix' are by law entitled to pass free in the mails. Collect the usual postage on the *Daily Globe*.

Letters for Deputy Sheriff.—J. W. B. F.—N. Y.—It there is no such office in your town, forward all letters, so addressed, to the Sheriff of the county.

Mistake in Mailing.—W. P. H. R.—Ohio—No entry of unpaid bill should have been made on your account. Your duty in the address, without extra charge, and to return the post-bill to the office of original mailing, with a proper explanation.

Austrian Postal Union.—J. L. E. E.—Ohio—The Austrian Postal Union is the term by which we designate the union of certain German States for the purpose of securing the best mail facilities with other nations. Letters sent by Prussian closed mail are subject to British and other postal regulations.

Post Office, and Changes.
The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of February, 1865:

Post Office.	County.	State.	Route.
Allan	Monroe	La.	14,894
*Aah Grove	Greene	Mo.	special
Alton	McLean	Pa.	2,748 & 2,748
Albionville	Todd	Ky.	9,848
Abernathy	Mary	Mo.	10,680
Buffalo Mills	Rockbridge	Va.	4,478
Boulder Valley	Norfolk	Ill.	11,809
*Brown's Creek	Harrison	W. Va.	not known
*Blackwater	Morgan	Ky.	special
Bluff Creek	Clemson	Ohio	9,390
Benjaminville	McLean	Ill.	11,814
Boston Store	Montgomery	Ind.	12,137
Bluff Creek	Malissa	Iowa	11,960
*Boone	Boone	Ky.	9,659
*Burrill Mills	Montgomery	Mo.	special
Boonville	Tazewell	Ill.	11,150
Boone Station	Boone	Iowa	14,173
Banner	Jackson	Iowa	4,471
*Cold Water	Northampton	Va.	4,240
Cherry Stone	Robertson	Ten.	10,004
Cedar Hill	York	Ky.	9,805
Cape Poplar	Marion	Mo.	9,058
*Cintigo	Marion	Mo.	special
Center Town	Ohio	Ky.	9,658
Carter's Station	Green	Ten.	9,703
Craven's Landing	Hardin	Ten.	11,088
Chandler	Mahaska	Iowa	12,695
Clous	Reit	Mich.	9,244
*Deweyville	Montgomery	Mo.	2,771
Dennis	Summit	Ohio	10,024
Dillon	Mulhens	Ten.	124
*Eli's Landing	York	Ky.	9,004
Edgemoor	Davidson	Ten.	16,756
Edgemoor	St. Louis	Mo.	special
Edwards	Buchanan	Mo.	10,824
Fisher	Fusion	Mo.	16,620
Farmer's Institute	Tippicanoe	Ind.	10,479
Fort Aubrey	Benton	Kan.	10,871
Green Grove	Knox	Ill.	11,961
*Forest	Scott	Mo.	7,401
Fort Junction	Wald	Col.	14,260
Francis	Chicago	Ill.	19,054
*Gardner's Landing	Greene	Pa.	4,636
*Howard's Bottom	Cabell	W. Va.	not known
Granville	Montgomery	Pa.	9,201
Green Bay	Cliff	Iowa	11,048
Gravelly	Allegheny	Pa.	12,755
*Grant	Portage	Wia.	19,054
Harle Academy	Jefferson	Iowa	10,088
Howardville	Iowa	Iowa	21,014
*Howard's Mills	Montgomery	Ky.	4,656
*Haze Green	Welf	Ky.	9,840

Hannagan	Ind.	special	
Hubbard	La.	4,536	
Hughesville	Charles	4,814	
*Knoxville	Jefferson	18,007	
Island	Bonnie	12,709	
*Knoxville Bridge	Ashtabula	not known	
*Kilke's Grove	Northernland	2,848	
*Laney's Creek	Hardy	4,906	
Lincoln Centre	Mich.	9,634	
Little Turkey	Chickasaw	Iowa	11,000
Lynnville	Greaves	Ky.	special
*Morgan	Harrison	Ky.	9,624
Madison	Pendleton	Ky.	9,624
Masonville	Winham	Pa.	925
McClure	Madison	N. Y.	1,295
Meacham's Creek	Monroe	Ky.	9,643
Middleton	Adis	Idaho	16,022
Norriaville	Madison	Pa.	1,295
Nishua	Pottawattamie	Iowa	11,064
*Northport Centre	Johnston	Iowa	10,936
Orangeville	Branch	Mich.	8,106
Oakland Mills	Howard	Mich.	8,212
Oakville	Richard	Ky.	9,810
Osgo Bluff	Cois	Mo.	10,414
Painter's	Fairfax	Va.	special
Pham City	Yuba	Wia.	special
Paulinville	Beth	Ky.	9,656
*Peel Oak	Oliver	Mich.	special
*Peters	Richland	Pa.	1,294
*Racket River	St. Lawrence	N. Y.	special
Rockfield	Warren	Ky.	9,648
*Rockfield	Warren	Ky.	9,654
South Linton	York	Mo.	1,294
Six Points	Butler	Pa.	2,702
St. George	St. George	Ill.	special
Star Furnace	Carter	Pa.	1,294
Shunkville	Cayuga	N. Y.	1,079
Sheridan	La Salle	Ill.	11,878
Sedgewick	Madison	Pa.	1,294
Spring Meadow	Bedford	Pa.	special
Sugar Grove	Butler	Ky.	9,649
Three Bridges	Yates	N. Y.	2,124
Tygart's Falls	Wood	W. Va.	1,294
Union Grove	Genery	Mo.	10,710
Wyoming	Wyoming	Del.	5,102
What Cheer	Keokuk	Iowa	1,294
*Walnut Grove	Ballard	Ky.	9,911
Winnemucca	Winnemucca	Nev.	special
*West Kortright	Delaware	N. Y.	special

DISCONTINUED

[In the annexed List will be found names of the nearest offices to which letters having been discontinued, should be sent.]

Name.	County and State.	Nearest Office.
Banner Valley	Linn, Iowa.	Marietta
Bally's Creek	Toga, Iowa.	Waukegan
Bear Creek	Logan, Iowa.	Waukegan
Burns Mills	Montgomery, Md.	Silago
Cypress Dale	Indiana, Pa.	Peun Run
Delhi	Warren, Pa.	Warren
East Dale Grove	St. Charles, Mo.	Tracy
Fullerville	Pike, Pa.	Dingman's Ferry
Forest	Pa.	Shelford, W. Va.
Greenville	Monroe, N. J.	Rordentown
Green	Franklin, Pa.	Shawsville Point
Glen Oak	Indiana, Pa.	North East
Greenfield	Holmes, Ohio	Killbuck
Huntersville	Clinton, Pa.	Clayton
Kekokagon	Clinton, Pa.	Gorry
Loyal's Station	Lehigh, Pa.	Pogsville
Lizbon	Richmond, N. Y.	Waukegan
Mole Hill	Manitowish, Wis.	Manitowish
Nashoto	Lake, Ill.	Waukegan
Newport	North Leslie, Mich.	Leola
Orator	Huron, Mich.	Leola
Prince of Wales	Frederick, Md.	Hardinsburgh
Princeton	Frederick, Md.	Leola
Ripley Landing	Jackson, W. Va.	Ch. Fort Halleck
Rock City	Dakota	Leitings
Seaman corners	Morrow, Ohio	Leitings
Vega	Henry, Ohio	Leitings
West Corners	Charmont, Ohio	Level, Warren Co.

NAMES CHANGED.

China, Wyoming, N. Y., Arcadia.
Denver City, Arapahoe, Cal., Denver.
Etna, Hancock, Vt., Howletts.
First Union, Ohio, Lawrence Centre.
Gray's Branch, Harford, Cal., Trinidad.
Illinoistown, Placer, Cal., Colfax.
Monks Linn, Kan., Mansfield.
Newbury, Howard, Iowa, Martin Roy.
Pulaski, Cleveland, N. O., Johnson.
New Village, Suffolk, N. Y., Book on Kama.
Pleasant Vale, New Haven, Ct., River Side.
Roses Hill, Harris, Tex., Ida.
Bismarck, Benton, Mich., Bismarck.
Sparta, Hilldale, Mich., Pittsford.
Sunawacoon, Clinch, Ga., Lawson.
White Chimney, Calhoun, Ga., Easton.
Yaklin Institute, Davidson, N. C., Yaklin College.

Presidential Appointments.

Alexandria, Reptis, La., Thos. S. Bacon.
Covington, Kenton, Ky., Jesse B. Grant.
Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Cal., Geo. J. Clarke.
New Hampshire, Essex, John W. Cummings.

Re-opened.

Hot Springs, Hot Springs, Ark., Arkansas.
Columbia, Chicot, Leonard E. Johnson.
Lewistown, Lafayette, Louis Laik.
Smithville, Lawrence, Wm. Moore.
Pennington's Mills, Falstaff, S. F. Robertson.
Booneville, Scott, James Sandler.
Bentonville, Benton, Richard H. Wemyss.
Pee Ridge, Benton, Wm. Martin.
Boonsboro, Washington, John F. Truesdale.
Blue Springs, Washington, Martin W. Pearson.
Fayetteville, Washington, Hugh C. Bolshart.
West Fork, Washington, Wm. H. Nait.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Pineville, Cleveland, Fm. Fallene Gladden.
Warsaw, Duplin, Miss Caroline M. Cowles.
Troyer Store, Randolph, Mrs. Sarah Ann Bais.
Trotter, Caldwell, Mrs. E. C. Chisard.
Fally Ho, Granville, Miss Betty A. Johnson.
Martindale, Mecklenburg, Wm. M. Martin.
Hickory Tavern, Catawba, Miss V. Tuttle.
Honey Grove, Buncombe, Louis Reid.
White House, Randolph, E. B. Henly.
Pollockville, Jones, Richard Dowdy.
Mackey's Ferry, Washington, Mrs. Ann B. Malson.
South Point, Halifax, Mrs. Mary A. Trais.
Socland Neck, Halifax, Wm. Fenner.
Hempsteadville, York, Miss Caroline M. Cowles.
Housatonic, Iredeil, Miss Bettie A. Dalton.
Jefferson, Ashe, E. T. Bartlett.
Sawyersville, Randolph, Miss No. E. Dongan.
Mud Lick, Buchanan, Milton No. E. Dongan.
Lottor Creek,utherford, Mrs. Mary Wilkenson.
Cedar Bush, Davidson, Miss Susan Summy.
Spears, Davidson, John Moore.
Whitfield, Columbia, John Morse.
Bismarck Ridge, Gaston, Mrs. Priscilla R. Holland.
Mountain Creek, Catawba, John E. Garbair.
St. Lawrence, Chatham, Isaac T. Brooks.
Elevation, Johnston, Sarah Dixon.
Williamburg, Iredeil, James E. Johnson.
Mount Olive, Wayne, Robt. Korogay.
Holly Grove, Madison, F. M. Lawson.
Bartlettburg, Johnston, Miss Bettie A. Young.
Eagle Mills, Iredeil, Joseph Cox.
Amity Hill, Iredeil, George B. King.
Providence, Mecklenburg, James F. Sample.
Roseville, Mecklenburg, James F. Bays.
Rich Square, Northampton, Wm. H. Burgess.
Heathies Ford, Lincoln, Miss Rachel Culp.
Coburn's Store, Union, Hugh Downing.
Falkland, Pitt, Joseph H. Mayo.
Hillardstown, Nash, Mrs. Jane H. Fortias.
Fentress, Guilford, Mrs. E. C. Fortias.
Kernersville, Forsyth, Miss Lucinde P. Kerner.
Rock Spring, Orange, Mrs. Elizabeth Oke.
Richmond Hill, Yadkin, John H. Hoops.
Stevens Mills, Union, John L. Thork.
Strong Point, Alexander, Mrs. Nancy Jena Gibbens.
Winton, Hertford, Ebon Shaw.
Turkey Cove, McDowell, John G. Yancey.
Rockford, Surry, L. E. Shobden.
Black Creek, Wilcox, Miss Ferrina Bous.
Trop Hill, Wilkes, A. Bryant.
Rutherford, Rutherford, Mrs. J. B. Carpenter.
Gatesville, Gates, Julius Bredy.
Leaksville, Rockingham, Mary A. Burton.
Wentworth, Rockingham, Mrs. Nancy Burney.
Durham, Orange, T. J. Mangum.
Swainsboro, Onslow, Daniel A. Hays.
Perry Grove, Onslow, Mrs. Emily Marshall.
Onslow C. H., Onslow, Mrs. Ann M. Spelth.
Cherry Lake, Ashe, Francis Brantley.
Grease Creek, Ashe, Andrew B. Carson.
Hay Meadow, Wilkes, B. Stratton.
Julesville, Surry, Lucy E. Roper.
Hay Stack, Surry, John P. Vorgan.
Burrays Mills, Rockingham, Mrs. Nancy Burney.
Brookville, Granville, Mrs. E. H. Bridges.
Fulton, Davis, Milton Hobbs.
Arcadia, Davidson, J. F. Shobden.
Avery's Creek, Buncombe, Thos. H. Bennett.
Gladesborough, Randolph, Jas. W. Lyndon.
Durham, Orange, T. J. Mangum.
Troy, Montgomery, Nat. McMein.
Lewistown, Forsyth, William Spies, Jr.
Troyer, York, Mrs. Jane Thompson.
Columbia, Polk, Miss Teanna Brice.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK.
J. OATLER, Editor.

NEW YORK MARCH, 1866

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail," and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

Dear Sir,—I consider the U. S. Mail and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Postmaster and Postmen throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.
To J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Order. That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

To J. Oatler, Esq. Editor U. S. Mail.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whose this number reaches, marked 65 or 66, will please remit at once.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to lay the details of such changes before them as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their paper is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them advantage of the latest official information on the postal matters.

Letters to Great Britain and Ireland.

MURKED RULE FOR RATING LETTERS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—We are requested to state, that from the 1st of April, 1866, the postage upon letters to and from Great Britain and Ireland, will be charged by a scale of progression having half an ounce as a unit throughout, the same as the United States domestic scale, the postage advancing by a single rate for each half ounce, instead of by two rates for every ounce after the first ounce.

Postmasters will take notice of this important change, and charge postage accordingly, in future.

MAIL BOXES.—The *St Louis Republican* has the following description of a "mail box" invented by Marshall Smith, Esq., Assistant P. M. at that city, and which he proposes as a substitute for the leather or canvas pouch. Some of these boxes are at present in use experimentally, and they seem to us to possess many advantages:

The invention consists of a box, instead of a leather pouch, as a receptacle for letters, during their transit from one part of the country to another. The box is made of wood, strongly bound with iron, and secured by the usual post-office padlock. The box is about two feet long by ten inches wide, and four or five inches deep. Within on the sides of the box, are iron-toothed guides with a follower, designed to press the letters into a compact form. The letters are placed in the box upon their edges, with iron labels separating the parcels for different offices, the follower pushed up, the lid closed and locked, and the mail is ready to depart. With this arrangement no wrappers are used for the parcels designed for different offices, and the mail can be closed within a few minutes of the time for its departure from the office.

KEEP THEM SEPARATE.—Judging from the number of letters deposited in post-offices bearing an "Internal Revenue" instead of a Postage Stamp, we should suppose that many persons were in the habit of keeping their supplies of these two very different articles in one common receptacle. We would advise those who do not desire to have their letters "held for postage" in consequence of an error of this sort, to provide against its occurrence by keeping the two kinds of "gum-backs" carefully separate.

Over two hundred Money Orders were issued by the San Francisco Cal. office on the fifth of February, the day of commencing the Business.

THE NEW FIFTEEN-CENT STAMPS are now in readiness to be issued on the requisition of Postmasters. They are printed in black ink, and bear in an oval, an excellent likeness of Abraham Lincoln, supported on each side by the fasces emblematic of Union. The design is tasteful, and the workmanship of the same excellence which has already given to American postage stamps the reputation of superiority in this respect to those of any other nation.

Postal Legislation.

On the 26th ult., the Bill to Amend the Postal Laws—a synopsis of which was published in the *U. S. Mail* for February—came again before the House of Representatives for consideration. Considerable debate took place on the subject, and the following sections which originally formed part of the bill, were struck out:

SEC. 1.—Authorizing the Postmaster-General to seal stamped envelopes at the value of the stamps impressed upon them, without release to the cost of the envelopes.

SEC. 4.—Authorizing the Postmaster-General to cause the mails to be transported by sailing vessels between any part of the United States and any foreign ports.

SEC. 5.—Repealing the law requiring the publication of the list of undelivered letters and leaving the matter to the discretion of the Postmaster-General.

SEC. 6.—Authorizing the application of the balance of the appropriation of \$100,000 under section 13, Act of May 19, 1864, to supply deficiencies in the proceeds of the Money Order system for the current year.

SEC. 11.—Authorizing the transfer of appropriations from one branch of expenditure to another.

SEC. 12.—Fixing the rates of postage on newspapers, circulars, pamphlets &c., deposited for local delivery.

SEC. 13.—Repealing the present law authorizing postmasters to contract with publishers of newspapers, periodicals and circulars, for delivery by carriers, of publications not coming through the mails.

After having undergone this somewhat extensive pruning, the bill was finally passed by the House in the following form:

SECTION 1.—Enacts that from and after the 1st day of April, 1866, prepaid letters shall be forwarded, at the request of the party addressed, from one Post office to another without additional postage charge, and returned dead letters shall be returned to the writers thereof free of postage.

SEC. 2.—That the tenth section of the act entitled "An Act to Establish Salaries for Postmasters and for other purposes," approved July 1, 1864, and so much of the 13th section of the act entitled "An Act to amend the laws relating to the Post-Office Department," approved March 3, 1863, as require postage to be charged at the prepaid rate to be collected on the return delivery of letters indorsed with a request for their return, to the writers, he and the same are hereby repealed, and all letters bearing such indorsement shall hereafter be returned to the writers thereof without additional postage to charge.

SEC. 3.—That the third section of the act entitled "An Act to establish a Postal Money Order System," approved May 17, 1864, be and the same is hereby amended so as to authorize the issuing of money-orders for any sum not to exceed fifty dollars, and that the charge or fee for an order not exceeding twenty dollars shall be ten cents, and for an order exceeding twenty dollars, twenty-five cents.

SEC. 4.—That a money order shall be valid and payable when presented to the Deputy Postmaster on whom it is drawn within one year after its date, but for no longer period; and in case of the loss of a money order, a duplicate thereof shall be issued without charge on the application of the remitter or payee, who shall make the required proof, and Postmaster as all persons are hereby authorized and required to administer to the applicant or applicants in such cases the required oath or affirmation free of charge.

SEC. 5.—That all railroad companies carrying the mails of the United States shall convey without extra charge, by any train which they may run over their roads, all such printed matter as the Postmaster-General shall from time to time direct to be transported thereon, with the persons in charge of the mails, designated by the Post-Office Department for that purpose.

SEC. 6.—That if any person shall willfully and maliciously injure, deface or destroy any mailable matter deposited in any letter-box, pillar-box, or other receiving-boxes established by authority of the Postmaster-General of the United States for the safe deposit of matter for the mails, or for the delivery, or shall willfully aid or assist in injuring such mailable matter so deposited as aforesaid, either by pouring into such boxes oil, water or other fluids, or by any other means; every such offender thereof being duly convicted, shall for every such offence be fined not less than one hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one year nor more than three years, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 7.—That whenever it shall become expedient in the opinion of the Postmaster-General to substitute a different kind of postage stamps for those now in use, he shall be and he is hereby authorized to notify the existing contract for the manufacture of postage stamps so as to allow the contractor a sum sufficient to cover the increased expense, if any, of manufacturing the stamps so substituted.

SEC. 8.—That section 2 of chapter 137 of the Act approved July 1, 1864, be amended by adding the following: "Provided that when the quarterly returns of any Postmaster of the third, fourth or fifth class shows that the salary allowed for the commission under the act of 1854 fixing compensation, then the Postmaster-General shall review and readjust under the provision of said section."

It will be remembered that the bill has not yet become a law—not having passed the Senate. It will probably be brought up for action before that body at an early day.

Volunteer P. O. Clerks, &c.

One of the greatest drawbacks to the efficiency of the Post Office Department is the practice extensively allowed in many country Post Offices of volunteer clerks or assistants. By these we mean those persons, old and young, who make a practice of hanging round post offices till a mail arrives, and then rushing into the room where it is opened and assisting the postmaster, either with or without his direct consent, not only in distributing the matter for other offices, but aiding in the opening of the mail for his own office; and if they do not actually assist the clerk in sorting and boxing the mail matter, they hang around the boxes, impede the clerk in his movements, distract his attention by asking questions, and otherwise hinder him in a quick and correct discharge of his duties. Some

of these volunteer clerks are also excellent post office spies, and make a practice and amusement of three or four times a day looking over outgoing or incoming mails, to see who of their friends receive or send letters. We have no fear of contradiction, when we say that to volunteer assistants may be attributed much of the mis-shipment of mail matter. But there is a more serious objection than either interference or mis-shipment of mail matter. It is in cases of deprecation—volunteer assistants enlarge to an almost unlimited extent, the field of operations in case of search for a lost letter, and greatly decrease the chances of success in the search,—for there is as much justice in suspecting a volunteer as there is in suspecting a regularly sworn clerk; and a great deal more reason, from the fact that he has the same opportunities for purloining, much better for concealment, and is less likely to have suspicion turned toward him. We hope postmasters will take the hint conveyed above, and those who are not inclined to do so, we would refer to Chap. III, Sec. 23, of Regulations of 1859, which, although rather old, are still in force, and which section reads as follows:

SEC. 23. Mails should not be opened or made up by the postmaster or his assistant within the reach of persons not authorized to handle them; the postmaster will therefore, while discharging these duties, if a room be appropriated to the use of his office, exclude from it all persons except his assistants regularly employed and sworn.

Duty and Courtesy, in Post-Offices.

If Postmasters would do their duty and make up mails according to Instructions, they would add much to the efficiency of our Postal System. But besides duty in the matter, courtesy could be made an element in the management of Post-offices. Suppose every postmaster, should take a *little* extra time and trouble, in order to save the next person who must handle mail matter coming from his hands, a *great deal* of time and trouble, this would be the courtesy which we now advocate. We will illustrate our position by the case of a postmaster whose office is a meeting point for several small mails, perhaps we should say, is a "Separating Office." Such postmaster, in the course of a day, receives letters in *small* numbers, which, in the aggregate, make a *large* number, to be handled by a route agent, or the postmaster of another separating office; if the postmaster of the first office would face up and tie in one or more convenient sized packages, all the letters he receives from small mails, and which are to go into some large bag or pouch, to be handled by a route agent or postmaster, he would save the latter much of the time and trouble, the saving of which we desire to promote, in the case of a route agent while passing from station to station, or of a postmaster, at a time when time is of most value to him, viz.: on the arrival of an important mail. In nearly every separating office several important mails are put up daily; in some of the offices large boxes are provided, into which are thrown promiscuously, letters, packages, and single newspapers, for each particular mail. We will suppose there are five or six important mails, let each postmaster then provide a box or case containing as many pigeon-holes, each capable of holding fifty or one hundred letters, and into these pigeon-holes place the letters for each specified mail, the letters faced one way, and when there are enough to make a package of a convenient size, tie them up and put them in the proper distributing box, or in the pouch. There should be such a case of pigeon-holes, for each person distributing a mail; only very few offices would want more than two of them, many not more than one. The boxes would be small, and readily moved about, if necessary, and consequently not in the way of a distributing table, and the expense would be trifling. Postmasters, think over this suggestion, and try it.

Disorderly Persons.—S. J. W., M.—You are right in excluding disorderly persons from your office during the time of sorting the mails. Be careful not to occupy more time in asserting than is necessary. The arrest and punishment of a few of these offenders may have a good effect upon the whole of them.

Remitting, &c.—D. P. M., C.—N. Y.—In forwarding an unpaid letter through D. P. O., simply mark it "Due 3" (or more, as the case may be), and send it along. No postbill is necessary. Foreign unpaid letters the same.

Box Rents.—J. W. B., S. B.—N. H.—All money received for box rents should be accounted for to the Department, no matter whether the boxes were put up at your cost or not. Your first question has been answered more than once.

Money Order.—R. O. C., K. C.—Mo.—There is no question as to a person's right to have a money order made payable to himself, and paid to him on presentation.

Marking up Matter in Transit.—L. R. H., D., Ill.—Your decision that a *broom* passing in the mails, should be charged with letter postage, is correct. If postmasters would consult the laws and regulations of the Department, they would soon learn what rates of postage it is proper to charge upon matter sent to them for mailing. The question has been so often asked that we are tired of answering it. Respecting your action in "marking up" the "broom" package, mailed at T., and re-distributed at your office, we find no authority in the laws or regulations which commanded your interference. It is supposed that Postmasters will, and they are expressly enjoined to, in all cases, exercise proper vigilance in administering the charge entrusted to them so that the Department shall not be defrauded of its just revenues. But zeal in the discharge of self-imposed duties may lead to abuses. Still, we think, if a glaring discrepancy is discovered in the rating of mail matter, the postmaster or clerk of an office through which it is passing is always justified in correcting the error; but he should be careful not to transgress his duty. He may suspect that a package on which newspaper postage is charged, contains some article which subjects it to letter postage; but the extreme measure for ascertaining the fact is not the right and duty of the official through whose office the package is in transit, except in certain large offices to which positive instructions for such supervision may have been sent from the Department.

Free Letters.—J. B. R., C.—Pa.—Letters to Quartermaster General are entitled to go free; see Instruction 42, Act of March 3, 1863.

Old Issue of Postage Stamps.—T. B., P.—Fla.—The old issue of Postage Stamp is not legal.

Preparation of Postage in Full.—T. B. S., P.—Oregon.—A letter must be prepaid in full, if you know who mailed it. But if deposited in post office by some one unknown, but with one full rate prepaid, it should be sent to office of destination, charged with the unpaid postage due 2. No. A distributing office cannot stop a letter.

Disposition of Newspapers and Pamphlets Remaining in Post Office.—S. A., F.—Wis.—See above.

Delivering Letters.—R. G. M.—Ind.—Letters bearing a box number, but addressed to a person not having a box, should be delivered to the person whose address they bear—the number of the box being evidently an error.

Postmasters and Pensions.—F. D., T.—N. Y.—Persons in the employ of the United States cannot receive a pension while so employed.

Number on Receipt for Registered Letter, &c.—A. P. R., F.—Pa.—I. Enter the number on the bill from D. P. O. 2. Fill up the blank with the name of the office from which you received the bill. You have nothing to do with the Foreign Post Mark.

Seeds, Scions, &c., to California.—J. W. B., N. Y.—If sent by *overland* route letter postage must be charged; if sent by *steamer*, 2 cts. for 4 ozs., package not to exceed 32 ozs. in weight, and should be marked *By Steamer*.

Delivery of Mail Pouch.—E. B. P., A., B.—Penn.—If the lane, or path, or common leading to your house is not recognized as a part of the post road, and if the driver of the mail wagon or coach cannot bring his vehicle up to your door and have sufficient room for turning the same to regain the proper road, it is your duty to go, or send a properly authorized person, to the side of his wagon or coach, and receive the mail from his hands; as he is not compelled to leave his horses to accommodate you. In case of your refusal to do this, the driver would be justified in refusing to leave the mail in an exposed situation, or to place the same in charge of an unauthorized person.

Packages to News Dealers.—L. A. B., C.—N. Y.—Section 8, Chap. I, referred to, does not provide for the difficulty you complain of. Our judgment is this—If the number of newspapers received by the news dealer varies from time to time, collect quarterly postage of him upon the *maximum* number; taking care to ascertain, from time to time, what the maximum number really is. Books, pamphlets, &c., and all irregular publications must be charged as transient matter. The latter cannot be sent in the package with newspapers, without subjecting the whole to transient rates. You had better address the Department, stating the case, as it is one involving some little doubt as to the strictly proper course to be pursued.

Return Letters.—A. L. B., W.—Iowa.—Return letters are to be entered on your account of "mails received," the same as any other unpaid letters. One entry alone is required for all. Your mistake is in supposing that a separate account is to be kept of these return letters.

Female Clerks.—D. W. C. G., E. S.—Mich.—We quite agree with you that females make good P. O. clerks in all offices where they can with propriety be employed. In *large* offices there would be many objections to them as clerks. Your first suggestion we can make no use of, as all postmasters must arrange the interior of their offices in such manner as shall best accommodate themselves.

Delivery of Newspapers.—L. N. W., E.—Va.—Postmasters are compelled to deliver newspapers to the subscribers in a club upon a list of names being furnished them, if the said newspapers reach their offices as *mail* matter, or, in other words, through the mails.

Forwarding Registered Letters.—B. S., T.—Penn.—Registered letters can be forwarded, charged with the additional postage due, but without the payment of an additional registry fee. They must be re-registered.

Postage on "Leather Sermon Cover," &c.—S. R. A., G.—Ohio.—You were right in charging letter postage on the "leather sermon cover." Pocket handkerchiefs and such matter should be charged letter postage. See sections 19 and 20, Act of March 3, 1863.

Letters to Minors.—J. M. K., R.—N. Y.—You were right in refusing to stop the letters, they being addressed to another Post Office.

Postage on Books.—C. E. L., O.—Mass.—Books can be sent by mail at the rate of two cents for every four ounces. If over four ounces an additional rate is charged. Four ounces bring the limit of one rate, it necessarily follows that an additional rate governs until the limit of another rate is attained; and so on up to four pounds, which is the limit of weight allowed upon a package going in the mails.

Collecting Postage Quarterly or Yearly.—W. F. N., McC.—G. Ill.—You can collect the postage either quarterly or yearly. But subscriber is not obliged to pay yearly.

Papers Free within the Country.—T. C. T., C.—Vt.—If the office within the County in which your post office, a subscriber can receive his county paper free through that office.

Letters not to be Advertised.—G. P. M., S.—Pa.—Instruction No. 7, Act of March 3, 1863, specifies such letters as are not to be advertised—among them are those for persons who regularly call or send to the post office. There is no law or regulation on this point specially applicable to letters from lottery managers.

Delivery of Mail Pouch, &c.—C. H. De C., M.—N. Y.—I. A mail driver is not obliged to leave his horses to receive or deliver a mail pouch. It would be well for you to be on the lookout for his arrival at the time he is due. 2. The way to stop a paper when the owner does not wish to use it, is to refuse (as you are required by law to do) to deliver it until the postage has been paid *in advance*. Bills for overdue quarterly postage should be unknown in post offices, as all postmasters are required to swear once a quarter that they have not delivered any mail matter until all postage due on same has been paid. 3. There can be no objection to the use of the stamp under the circumstances you mention.

Transient Papers by Overland Mail.—J. M. M., F., Ill.—By Act of March 5, 1864, all transient papers conveyed by mail beyond western boundary of Kansas, are subject to prepaid letter rates. This is the reason why your papers, if paid at newspaper rates, do not reach their destination.

Entering Return Letters.—G. L., F.—N. C.—If return letters reach you from a D. P. O., duly billed, enter them as received from that office, if a bill accompanies them enter the amount due as an undercharge.

Postage to Pacific Coast.—J. H. M., C.—N. Y.—The 10 cent Pacific rate, referred to in columns of Domestic Postages as being abolished, means former rates to domestic offices on Pacific Coast, and not, as you seem to suppose, to foreign ports, or vessels lying therein, on the same coast.

Violation of Postal Laws.—B. F. O., G.—N. Y.—Section 128, P. O. Regulations, fully covers the ground of your complaint. A member of the Legislature has no more right to violate the law than any other citizen. Postmasters are not excusable for neglecting to collect the full amount of postage on a package or letter; and if detected in this evasion of the law should be reported in the Department.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of March, 1866:

ESTABLISHED.

Post Office.	County.	State.	Route.
*Avilla	Jasper	Mo.	10,607
American City	Stary	Nev.	10,338
Abraham	Groves	Mo.	10,331
*Aaron's Run	Montgomery	Ky.	9,589
*Armstrongville	Lancaster	Pa.	special.
*Bishopville	Worcester	Mass.	special.
Beaver City	Newcastle	Ind.	12,256
Bone Cave	Van Buren	Tenn.	1,034
*Bose Hills	Union	Ky.	10,467
*Bordley	Union	Ky.	9,556
Bitter Water	Bullitt	Ky.	special.
Bradford	Marshall	Mo.	2,893
Caldwell's Store	Alleghany	Pa.	special.
*Cuba	Graves	Ky.	special.
*Cedarville	Washington	Iowa	special.
Centre Exchange	Centre Exchange	Mo.	1,318
Cedar Spring	Harrison	Ind.	12,121
Carry	Pike	Mo.	9,703
*Cedar Station	Wayne	Pa.	special.
Cedar Creek	Greene	Mo.	14,224
*Cedar X Roads	Marshall	Iowa	10,981a
Waynes	Wayne	Pa.	special.
Class Alpha	Cedar	Mo.	11,606
*Cane Hill	Cedar	Mo.	special.
Dolton's Station	Cook	Ill.	12,179
Tramont	Tramont	Pa.	2,774
Enterprise	Vernon	Wis.	special.
Eau Claire	Butler	Pa.	2,702
*Eagle Cliff	Walker	Pa.	6,070
Ellsworth	Ellsworth	Pa.	special.
*Elm	Knox	Ind.	12,090
Farmington	Holmes	Ind.	special.
*Frank's Mills	Franklin	Pa.	special.
Fair Oaks	Audrian	Mo.	10,466
*Flint Hill	St. Charles	Mo.	10,432
*Fulton Creek	Franklin	Pa.	special.
Flag Station	Ogish	Iowa	9,879
Flint Springs	Monro	Cal.	18,765
Freedom	Barren	Ky.	9,842
Gettemane	Nelson	Ky.	9,501
*Golden Pond	Trigg	Ky.	9,648
*Glenville	Cabell	W. Va.	not known
*Gibson	Glascock	Pa.	special.
*Gum Pond	Mitchell	Ga.	not known
Givin	Madoka	Iowa	10,901
Green Dale	Madoka	Ind.	15,650
*Garet	Madoka	Ind.	9,602
*Goshen	Montgomery	Mo.	special.
Great Allen	Henrico	Va.	4,403
Golding	Ocean	Mo.	special.
*Gap Civil	Aabe	N. D.	6,184
*Guthrie	Lawrence	Ind.	12,108
Harrison	Monongalia	Pa.	12,502
Hickberry	Lavaca	Texas	8,531
Hickman	Knox	Mo.	special.
Hickory	Hickory	Pa.	9,555
*Hazard	Perry	Ky.	9,879
*Herman	Dodge	Wia.	special.
Hicksville	Hicksville	Pa.	4,477
Ivesdale	Champaign	Ill.	11,819
*Joseph's Mills	Tyler	W. Va.	4,107
Jeterstown	Jeterstown	Ky.	9,554
Kirkwood	Shelby	Pa.	9,381
Lafontaine	Harian	Ky.	9,590
Lebanon	Dallas	Mo.	10,896
Lebanon Church	Camden	Ga.	6,038
Linden	Dallas	Iowa	11,071
Little Sewell Moan's	Greenbrier	W. Va.	4,211
*Lost Creek	Breathitt	Ky.	special.
Lindie's Mill	Union	Ky.	special.
*Lovel's Station	Eric	Pa.	2,773
*Lamar	Hancock	Pa.	10,606
*Montgomery	Trigg	Ky.	9,648
Marytown	Scott	Mo.	special.
Mount Holly	Monroe	Pa.	14,110
Monroe Centre	Gr'd Traverse	Mich.	special.
Milford's Landing	Coahoma	Miss.	9,183
Milnes	Metaco	Pa.	14,778
Marvin	Lawrence	Pa.	special.
*McLeod's Station	Logan	Ky.	9,548
*Mason's Cross Station	Madison	Pa.	10,207
Mason Depot	Tipton	Tenn.	10,219
*McGonigle's Station	Butler	Ohio	9,401
Milburn	Butler	Ohio	9,845
Mill City	Clear Creek	Cal.	10,808
Myersville	Williamsburg	S. O.	8,604
*North Bedford	Clyton	Iowa	10,999a
*New Bedford	New Bedford	Pa.	10,808
Owensville	Monro	Cal.	18,765
*Pryorburgh	Gravette	Ky.	9,588
*Pilot Grove	Pilot Grove	Pa.	10,530
*Pony Down	Marion	Mo.	10,490
Pequabunk	Litchfield	Conn.	965
*Palma	Marshall	Ky.	11,225
Petroleum	Vernon	Wis.	13,228
Paris	Mecosta	Mich.	12,748
Rexford	Cook	Ill.	11,804
Richardson's Land's	Tipton	Tenn.	11,804
South Vineland	Cumberland	N. Y.	3,102
South Jefferson	Scholar	Ind.	1,434
Saint Vincent	St. Vincent	Pa.	10,608
Swede Grove	Meeker	Min.	13,804
Swimish	Island	Wash.	16,419
Swimish	Ocean	Pa.	special.
Sherby	Morgan	Mo.	

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

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Postal Laws and Regulations.
The new and revised edition of the Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department is now nearly ready for publication, and will doubtless soon be issued to Postmasters. It forms a volume of somewhat over two hundred pages, and contains a careful compilation of all the existing laws relating to the Post Office Department, and also the various Regulations established by the Postmaster General. It was prepared under the supervision of JOSIAH A. WARR, Esq., Solicitor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, assisted by B. F. WILKINS, Esq., of the Contract Office, and to the courtesy of the former gentlemen we are indebted for advance sheets of the work, which is one of signal ability, and evinces a marked improvement in several respects, upon previous publications of the same nature. The Laws are carefully classified according to the several subjects to which they relate, arranged in order of date, and explained and illustrated by notes of the judicial rulings and decisions which have been made under them. The index to the Laws is copious, and prepared with great care and judgment—qualities (as most book readers, to their cost and vexation, well know) too often lacking in the majority index-makers.

The Regulations occupy about ninety pages of the work, and embrace instructions on all points connected with the duties of post office officials—all former regulations which have been rendered obsolete by the enactment of late laws being omitted, and new ones introduced to meet the present requirements of those laws. As our readers will not doubt be anxious to obtain a sight of these latter, we append a few extracts from them. We begin with the "Special Notice," with which the Regulations are introduced:

All instructions and regulations promulgated by the Postmaster General, conformably to the guidance of persons employed by the department, are the law of the land, and entitled to the same respect and obedience as acts of Congress. Any disregard or disobedience of such regulations entails upon postmasters, contractors, and other employees of the Post Office Department the same liabilities and penalties as a violation of any specific law of Congress. The following regulations and instructions are made for the purpose of organizing the business of the department, and all official acts of the officers of the department must be done and performed in strict conformity thereto. Every deviation from these instructions and regulations will be followed by appropriate penalties or punishment.

Sec. 3. No person can be appointed postmaster who cannot legally execute an official bond, and take the required oath. Minors and married women are, by law, incapable of holding the office of postmaster.

Sec. 52. Distributing offices are established to insure certainty and regularity in the transmission of letters and packets between remote points; and to this end, besides the usual business of a post office, certain peculiar duties are performed at these Offices of this character. The Postmaster General, and the allowance for extra service fixed as the exigencies of the service may require.

Sec. 56. The following is a list of the distributing offices on the 1st of April, 1866:

Boston, Massachusetts.	St. Louis, Missouri.
Portland, Maine.	Louisville, Kentucky.
Hartford, Connecticut.	Dayton, Ohio.
New York, New York.	Dubuque, Iowa.
Albany, New York.	San Francisco, California.
Buffalo, New York.	Sacramento, California.
Philadelphia, Penn.	Norfolk, Virginia.
Pittsburgh, Penn.	Richmond, Virginia.
Baltimore, Maryland.	Kanawha, West Virginia.
Washington, Dist. of Co.	Raleigh, North Carolina.
Wheating, Virginia.	Montgomery, Alabama.
Cincinnati, Ohio.	New Orleans, Louisiana.
Columbus, Ohio.	Charleston, South Carolina.
Cleveland, Ohio.	Savannah, Georgia.
Toledo, Ohio.	Columbus, Georgia.
Detroit, Michigan.	Nashville, Tennessee.
Indianapolis, Indiana.	Memphis, Tennessee.
St. Joseph, Missouri.	Little Rock, Arkansas.
	Napoleon, Arkansas.
	Galveston, Texas.

Sec. 74. Every postmaster will enter the amount of unpaid letters, as it is charged in the bill whether the charge be correct or erroneous. If erroneous, it falls either under the denomination of *undercharged*, *overcharged*, and by an entry of the sum *undercharged* or *overcharged*, in the proper column, that error is balanced.

Sec. 90. Letters received to be sent by mail should be carefully marked with the name of the post office at which they are received, and the abbreviated name of the State or territory, the day of the month on which they are forwarded in the mail, and the rate of postage chargeable on them; or if they be free, with the word *Free*. The name, date, and *Free*, may be either written or stamped.

Sec. 92. Post-bills are used only for unpaid and registered letters. No entry need be made in the right-hand column of the post-bill if the letters received correspond with the statement of the mailing postmaster. Unpaid letters sent to a distributing office for distribution should not be post-billed. A post-bill is required only when mailing direct for delivery.

Sec. 93. Only such letters as there is good reason to believe were written after the usual hour for closing the mail at the local post office, and such as could not, with due diligence, have been placed in the office in due time to be despatched in the outgoing mail, may be received by the agent and mailed in the cars, excepting railway post offices, which are required to receive letters up to the last moment prior to the moving of the train.

Sec. 114. Special reports are to be made when mails are received out or in otherwise bad condition; also of extraordinary failures, interruptions, or abandonment of routes; and from time to time, of all such information as may aid the department in enforcing the strictest performance of duty on the part of contractors, and securing for the community the greatest possible

regularity, safety, and efficiency in the mail service. These special reports should state the number, or, if the number is not known, the termini of the route.

Sec. 115. The registers and special reports must be forwarded to the Contract Office, Inspection Division. In no case are they to be sent with the quarterly returns. A copy of each register sent to the department should be kept by the postmaster.

Sec. 140. All franking by postmasters, or to them, except upon their official communications to the department and to each other, is prohibited. In such cases the envelope should bear the certificate "official business," signed by the postmaster writing.

Sec. 142. The franking privilege, heretofore accorded to widows of Presidents, is, by the law of March 3, 1863, entirely abrogated.

Sec. 144. By a law of Congress passed in 1866, all letters and packets carried by post to and from Mrs. Mary Lincoln, widow of the late President Lincoln, are to be conveyed free of postage during her natural life.

Sec. 145. Copyright books, charts, &c., required to be delivered to the library of Congress or Smithsonian Institution, and which are entitled to pass free in the mail, should be inscribed "Copyright for Congress Library," or "Smithsonian Institution," as the case may be.

Sec. 149. Postmasters will, as far as possible, report the postage accruing at their offices upon each of the three classes of mailable matter enumerated in section 19, act of March 3, 1863, viz: first, letters; second, regular printed matter; third, miscellaneous matter.

Sec. 150. If any matter on which by law the postage is required to be prepaid at the mailing office shall reach its destination without such prepayment, the prepaid rates shall be charged and collected on delivery, and this regulation applies to all letters not duly franked or prepaid (except soldiers' and naval letters), and all printed matter except that sent to regular subscribers, and to all miscellaneous matter.

Sec. 152. Postmasters must never give credit for postage, nor deliver any letter, newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other package, until the postage thereon is paid. Printed matter must be retained until it is paid for, either at transit or quarterly rates. Unmailable matter will never be delivered.

Sec. 157. Letters mailed in the cars can be prepaid only by using postage stamps or stamped envelopes, and when not thus prepaid, it is the duty of postmasters to treat all such letters as unpaid, although marked "paid"; no route agent being permitted to receive prepayment in money.

Sec. 184. When a registered package of stamps or envelopes has been forwarded from a distributing office, and no "correct" return bill therefor has been received by due course of mail, the case must be immediately referred to a special agent, and the facts reported to the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Sec. 186. Route agents are required to note upon their mail bills the registered number and address of each package of stamps and box of stamped envelopes that may pass under their notice; and also to keep a record of the same, in which they will enter the name of the person to whom such package or box is delivered, and from whom they will be careful to take a receipt.

Sec. 189. The postage on stamped envelopes spoiled in directing may be refunded in stamps by a postmaster, if satisfied that they have never been sent by mail, and that the misdirection actually occurred at the place where the redemption is claimed. In no case is an envelope to be redeemed at the post office to which it is directed. Postmasters will send such spoiled envelopes, with a special letter, to the Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Sec. 199. The 10 or 15 cents (according to the distance) pays for the postage on any post office in either of the British North American provinces, and vice versa; prepayment is optional in either country, but a prepayment of anything less than the full rate is not to be regarded.

Sec. 200. The sixpence (6d.) and shilling marks of prepayment in British North America will be recognized.

Sec. 210. The following is the form of oath prescribed to be taken by publishers as to the transmission of printed mail matter to other than *bona fide* subscribers:

I, the undersigned, of _____, publisher of _____, in the city of _____, county of _____, State of _____, do swear (or affirm) that he, as publisher, has not sent, nor permitted to be sent by any clerk, agent, or employee, within his knowledge, any copies of the _____ without prepayment of postage by postage stamps, except the same were sent to *bona fide* and regular subscribers.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, _____, this _____ day of _____.

Sec. 211. It is the duty of a postmaster to receive and deliver to subscribers, newspapers, magazines, and periodicals which come in the mail, and to put the address on such publications sent to clubs, or to deliver them from a list of subscribers, provided each list is furnished and the postage on the whole packet paid for one quarter in advance.

Sec. 214. The privilege of publishers to send their publications free of postage is limited to one copy of each issue, and that can only be sent free when sent direct from one publisher to another. It can neither be sent to any other person, nor forwarded after one delivery to any other place, without payment of postage thereon.

Sec. 215. Postmasters and special agents will report all cases where papers or periodicals are sent without prepayment to other than regular subscribers.

Sec. 229. In the territory included between the western boundary of Kansas and the eastern boundary of California, letter postage must be charged upon all printed matter, except upon newspapers, periodicals, &c., sent from a known office of publication to *bona fide* subscribers. (One copy only of each such newspaper, periodical, &c., can be received by a subscriber at rates charged on printed matter.)

Sec. 286. Every postmaster of a "special office" will report to the Postmaster General, at the end of each quarter, the balance in his hands, over and above the sums due the contractor for supplying his office with the mail. In order that the department may make a proper disposition of such balance.

Sec. 287. Postmasters at "special offices," when under order to pay their respective contractors, will not only pay promptly, but lose no time in transmitting to the Auditor for the Post Office Department the receipts taken for their quarterly payments.

Sec. 288. All payments to the department, whether upon drafts or otherwise, must be in specie, United States Treasury notes, or notes of the national banks; and postmasters, in receiving payment of postage, or other dues to the department, should always bear in mind that they are bound to pay them over in the legal currency of the United States.

Sec. 289. No allowance can be made to a postmaster for deficiency in weight of coin, or for any counterfeit money received for postage. Neither can any compensation be made for collecting or paying over moneys to the department, not arising from postages at his office.

Sec. 294. In case of death, resignation, or removal of a postmaster, or discontinuance of an office; or in case of the giving of a new official bond, the expiration of the term for which the postmaster may have been appointed, or other reason, the accounts must be made up to the day (though it be not the end of the quarter) in which the office ceases to operate or the new appointment, or the new bond, as the case may be, takes effect.

Sec. 295. Many postmasters have been in the habit of forwarding to the department, contrary to law, and by the Postmaster General's instructions, the original accounts, keeping no duplicate or copy. This violation of rule cannot be permitted nor overlooked. Transcripts or copies only must be sent, and the original accounts must be carefully preserved for inspection by any agent of the department who may require it.

Sec. 298. If any postmaster shall neglect to render his accounts for one month after the time, and in the form and manner prescribed by law, and by the Postmaster General's instructions, he shall forfeit double the value of postages which shall have arisen at his office.

Sec. 299. The Postmaster, though he may have mailed his accounts, will not be considered as discharged from the penalty mentioned in the foregoing section, unless within one month after being notified that they have not been received at the department, he transmits duplicate transcripts from the original accounts retained in his possession.

Note.—Postmasters will bear in mind that unless the two preceding sections are strictly complied with, the penalty of their omission will be enforced.

Sec. 302. Every postmaster shall keep, in a book separate from his other accounts, a record

1. Of all postage stamps and stamped envelopes received by him.
2. Of all postal books, blanks, or other property turned over by his predecessor, or received from the Post Office Department, or from any of its agents, during his term of office.
3. Of all payments of postage in money.
4. Of all box-rents. The entry of money received for box-rents should show the number of the box for which the payment was made.
5. Of all other rents, emoluments, and moneys received by him as postmaster, or as custodian of the building in which the post office is located.

Sec. 303. Every postmaster will keep the above accounts separately, and charge himself with all receipts thereon. He will make quarterly returns thereof to the Auditor, and turn over his records to his successor.

Sec. 307. To insure a correct and expeditious settlement of the quarterly accounts of postmasters, it is indispensable that each return should arrive at the department in one perfect, unbroken bundle or packet. Each postmaster, therefore, should observe the following directions in packing up his returns for transmission in the mail.

Sec. 308. Put up each part of the return, if large, in a separate parcel, with strong paper, tying it with twine, and writing on each parcel its proper contents, and the name of the office, county, and State. Then pack up all the parcels, constituting the entire quarterly return, in one compact bundle or packet, and having postmarked it direct to the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department.

Sec. 309. No letter, receipt, paper, or other thing whatever, not strictly belonging to the quarterly return, as enumerated and described in this chapter, should be put up in it.

Sec. 310. Newspaper account.—Every postmaster will keep an account in which he will enter at the beginning of the quarter, or on first receiving any particular paper, all newspapers by name that are to come regularly to his office, except such weekly papers as are free, and in the proper column opposite each paper, the amount of postage thereon for the quarter. The postage is to be collected in advance. In the same account, and in the same manner, he will enter all periodicals regularly received, and which have not been prepaid at the mailing office. At the end of the quarter he will correct this account, first, by adding to it all the extras, supplements, and duplicates of said papers which have been received; and second, by deducting the amount he may have refunded for papers which failed to arrive.

An account, in the form prescribed by the department, must be kept by every postmaster of all printed matter received at his office other than that embraced in the above account, and on which the postage was payable at his office. This account will, therefore, include the amount of postage on each and every transient newspaper, unsealed circular, handbill, engraving, pamphlet, periodical, magazine, book, and every other description of printed matter received at his office, except newspapers for actual and *bona fide* subscribers, and periodicals published at intervals of not more than three months. It will also include the postage on any such matter deliverable at his office, which, through inattention of the postmaster, or otherwise, may

not have been prepaid at the mailing office, and the postage on every description of printed matter mailed or received at his office or from foreign countries.

Sec. 311. Where a postmaster collects from regular subscribers the postage on printed matter for more than a quarter in advance, he must account for the same quarterly.

Sec. 313. As the account current is intended to show the net proceeds of the office for the quarter, no balance due on a former quarter, nor any payment to, or collection for, the department is to be inserted in it. All vouchers for expenses charged in the account current, whether for emolument, contingent, or general expense account, must be transmitted with the said accounts, and if for advertising letters, must state the number of letters. Unreasonable delay not only implies neglect of the public business, but is calculated to bring suspicion upon the claims withheld; and the department, therefore, reserves to itself the right to reject all such claims made after the quarterly accounts have been adjusted.

Sec. 319. Postmasters must send with their quarterly accounts current a complete dead-letter bill for the whole quarter, corresponding in amount with the credits claimed for dead letters in articles 11 and 12.

Sec. 321. Items relating to money-order business should not be entered on the account current.

Sec. 322. Items relating to previous quarters should not be entered in subsequent returns.

Sec. 323. A cheap plan desk or case, for the safe-keeping of letters and packets, is the only furniture allowed in the counting-room; but before purchasing, application should be made to the Auditor's office for directions, &c.

Sec. 324. No allowance will be made for any charge to the contingent or incidental expense unless accompanied by the proper voucher—that is, a bill received.

Sec. 325. PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK OF THE QUARTERLY ACCOUNT CURRENT.

Sec. 465. At all large offices at which daily mails from other large offices are received, care should be taken to note the fact, if the usual mail from any of those offices fall for any given day to arrive; and if subsequent mails arrive, leaving that for a preceding day still due, the mailing office should be immediately written to for information whether such mail as that supposed to be missing was actually sent, and if the answer be in the affirmative, a report of the loss should immediately be made to the department.

Sec. 473. The Post Office Department neither owns, erects, nor repairs letter boxes in post offices, except where the building is owned by the United States. Letter boxes are the property of those postmasters who choose to put them up.

Sec. 474. The salaries of postmasters are established upon the basis of ALL THE REVENUES OF their post offices during the two years preceding the passage of the law—i. e., 1853 and 1854. Box-rents are included in these revenues. Every postmaster receives in the form of salary as much compensation as he formerly received from commissions and box-rents.

Sec. 475. Any postmaster may put up boxes in his office. These boxes are his private property, but the revenues thereof must be paid over to the department. Under the system of salaries, the postmaster receives the benefit of those revenues as effectually as he could under the system of commissions and emoluments.

Sec. 476. Where the justice of the case demands, the Postmaster General has authority to readjust salaries once in two years; and under this provision of law all inaccuracies and inadequate or excessive allowances of salary can be readily corrected; so that where there is an extraordinary increase or decrease of box-rents within the two years, the salary may be readjusted so as to meet the requirements contemplated by the law.

Sec. 477. Box-rents in all post offices must be paid for at least one quarter in advance.

Sec. 478. Each postmaster must keep a list of all box-holders, with the number of the box assigned to each, and the time during which he has used it. This list will be examined by special agents, and he delivered to his successor in office. The postmaster must state in his quarterly returns the amount of box-rents accrued in each quarter, and whether he has collected them or not.

Sec. 503. Special agents will examine, at all offices visited, the "complaint book," which all postmasters are required to keep, and in which they are required to enter all reports of missing letters, mailed to or from their offices, which may be made to them, with full particulars of each case. At any office where such a book is not kept, direct that it be procured and put in use.

Sec. 505. It is not allowable for a route agent to leave his duties in charge of a substitute, except under the most urgent circumstances, without permission being first granted by the Postmaster General, on a written application through his Second Assistant, and such permission will be in writing for a specified time, the limitation of which must be strictly observed.

Sec. 506. When a sudden and urgent necessity arises for the temporary absence of a route agent from his duties, allowing no sufficient time for a reference of his application to the department, a postmaster at the end of his route may grant leave for such absence, but only on a written application, which he will refer to the department for approval by the first mail thereafter; and the leave thus granted must be limited to the shortest time in which such application can reach, and be returned from the department by mail.

Sec. 507. As there are reasons for believing that this rule is sometimes violated by route agents without proper notice being taken of the matter by postmasters, special agents are instructed to make special inquiry respecting such violations at offices at and from which route agents arrive and depart.

Monsieur Tanson Again.
BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

I accidentally heard a remark the other day, which fell from the lips of an official, that "Monsieur Tanson's letters were not as funny as they used to be." Goodness gracious! Funny! there's praise for you! I looked over my specialties at the rasb speaker, and mentally materialized his sum total. Here it is: As a hoy, impaling flies, tying two cats by the tails and banging them over a line, or lashing tin kettles to the caudal extensions of strange dogs, to accelerate their propelling power, must have been very funny; and as a man, railroad collisions, steamboat explosions, and public executions, must be the funniest of fun. What he could find in any of my contributions to call funny is beyond my comprehension. That man, I believe, would pronounce the most pathetic discourse lucely funny, and the oration of Mark Anthony over the dead body of Cæsar a good "goak." It is a fortunate thing that he cannot live a hundred years longer, and that there are but few such unsusceptibles in the Department.

That any one could imagine that I would censure or praise official acts in a spirit of levity, is extremely mortifying to me; and did I for a moment suppose that this cold-blooded fellow had a single sympathizer in his estimate of my benevolent efforts, I would put up the shutters and quit.

Is it funny to enjoin on post office people diligence and industry, care and caution, civility and politeness? Is it funny to urge upon them the prompt despatch and delivery of mails, and the importance of receiving, protecting, and delivering letters, whether full of money, full of love, or full of business? Is it funny to ask them to bestow the same attention on their official duties, as they would upon their most private important affairs? I apprehend not. Nor is it funny, I take it, to rebuke them from unjust charges made against them for faults which they do not commit. It is fun, it must be kindred to that spoken of by Esop, in his fable of the "Boys and the Frogs." I have nothing extenuated—set down naught in malice. I claim to be the friend of the post office clerk, for I have learned to appreciate him, and I have a decided appreciation of the labors of the letter carrier—about whom a popular writer says, "He is every one's man; he is loved by all, expected by all; he is hope in human form. He comes, he goes, he returns he goes again, and upon the whole of his route he finds nothing but smiles. The messenger of death or love, satisfied or disappointed ambition, he is always welcome; for his presence, and that which he brings, whether joy or grief, puts a period to the most cruel of all evils, suspense. He is at once blame and praise, consolation and despair."

An occurrence to which I am about to allude, merely to show how easy it is to pack blame on a post office without cause, when it attaches elsewhere, may be thought "funny" by a certain party, but I did not so regard it.

There is a law, I believe, requiring all letters deposited in post offices unstamp'd, to be sent to the Dead Letter Office—and of course a great many are so sent. I humbled myself the other day, and was put to a good deal of inconvenience for my neglect. The way of it was this: A pretty young lady, residing in a village some distance from the metropolis, knowing me to be a very obliging old gentleman, called upon me, and placed in my possession some money and a memorandum, to forward to a certain address in New York, and receive an answer in my name. I glanced curiously at the articles enumerated, such as rais, mice, waterfalls, &c., and without having the remotest idea of what it all meant, I enclosed what she gave me in an envelope, and superscribed it according to her directions. Not having a stamp, I went to the post office and purchased one, wet it, and was just in the act of placing it upon the letter, when a very choleric gentleman seized me rudely by the arm, and asked me "what the d— I was playing penny post to his niece for," and pursuing his lips and inflicting his checks, he glared at me, and as he glared he continued to say, "I ain't thought the skin of his head must give way unless he opened his mouth. (unburied his nostrils) which he did; then, in a sepulchral monotonous tone—he stung my ear and my feelings—while the under finger of his dexter hand sward the air—'Old Top, you can't throw dust in my eyes; she says you are old enough to be her grandfather. I don't see it—beware!' For a moment I was perfectly dumfounded at this sudden unexpected attack, but soon recovered my presence of mind, and carefully recovering my equanimity, I handily looked at him over my glasses, (my usual mode of making my glance effective) and assured him that he was never so mistaken in his life.

My calm demeanor and candid look mollified him at once, and he apologized; but in the confusion I dropped the letter in the aperture, and did not notice until next day that I had accidentally placed the stamp on the head of my cane, instead of the letter, where I found it finally fastened. I at once proceeded to the office to explain, but found to my mortification that the letter had been sent to the dead letter office. Letters are dropped in offices sometimes unsealed, sometimes without an address, and sometimes so badly addressed as to render the superscription perfectly unintelligible. Now I think if postmasters were to place a conspicuous notice over the drop box, to this effect: *Persons should carefully observe that their letters are properly sealed, addressed, and stamped, before depositing them in the office for mailing, that much annoyance, inconvenience, and pecuniary injury would be avoided. This is merely a suggestion, however, thrown out for the benefit of any body to make use of, or improve upon.*

MONSIEUR TANSON.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860 By J. HOLBROOK.
J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK MAY, 1866

Terms—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail," and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, October 25, 1865.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant a valuable and meritorious publication, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its useful operations, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance, or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington Oct. 18, 1865.

DEAR SIR—I have no hesitation in adding my commendation to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the "United States Mail," as a medium of communication to Postmasters and others, and as a source of information to Postmasters and others, and as a source of information to Postmasters and others.

To J. GAYLER, Esq., Editor U. S. Mail.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding issue of the paper.

There are no changes to note in our Table of Foreign Postages.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result.

Rating Foreign Postage.

The article announcing a change in the method of rating letters to Great Britain and Ireland (last) which appeared in our last number, would seem to have been rather carelessly read by some of our subscribers.

Presentations.—JAMES P. ROGERS, Esq., for some years past Assistant Postmaster at New York, retired from that office on the 10th ult., and on the same evening, being invited to meet a few friends at the house of Hon. James Kelly, Postmaster, was agreeably surprised by the presentation of a beautiful watch and chain, the gift of Mr. Kelly and the principal officers of the Post Office.

JOHN H. HALLETT, Esq., Superintendent of the City Delivery at the New York Post Office, was also lately presented, by the letter carriers of that establishment, with a handsome watch and chain—the case of the former bearing a well engraved view of the Post Office, and the latter ornamented with a key ingeniously fashioned into the form of a miniature letter, postmarked and stamped, addressed to Mr. Hallett, whose long and faithful services justly entitle him to the graceful compliment which is thus paid to him.

Our last Post Office Bill, which was notified in our list as having passed the House of Representatives, has not yet been acted on by the Senate.

Stamping Misset Letters.

The Postmaster at New York has received from the postmaster at a neighboring office, a letter enclosing another, which he says has been three times *misset* to his office, whereas it should have been sent to an office with a somewhat similar name.

The Regulations require that *misset* letters should have the word "*misset*," together with the name of the office to which they were *misset*, stamped or written on them, and then forwarded. Had this been done in the case mentioned, the letter instead of being *misset* three times, would after the first time have gone at once to its proper destination. The fault therefore of its delay is with the postmaster who neglected to comply with the regulations, and stamp it "*misset*." Postmasters should consider themselves responsible both to the Department and to the public, both of whom look to him, and expect him to do his whole duty. The Regulations are established for his instruction, and any failure to comply with them is just so much dereliction of duty, and merits just so much condemnation.

DON'T FORGET, when mailing a registered letter: 1st. To date the return bill the day of the departure of the letter from the mailing office. 2d. To mail the letter to the first Distributing Post Office on the route, if there be one. 3rd. In doing so, to send it, with return receipt and registered letter bill, in a sealed envelope addressed to the Postmaster of the Distributing Post Office, just as if it were to be delivered there—of course sending the return bill to him also by next mail. (Will some of our friends at the West and South take a special note of the above, and not send their registered letters for New York, Philadelphia, Boston, &c., direct to those cities?) 4th. To place all registered packages in delivery bundles, and *never* with letters for distribution. 5th. To send with each registered package an ordinary post bill marked "Reg." or "R."

A POKER.—

A postmaster (we are sorry to say) writes us to inquire whether, when he has brought the mail pouch to the side of the stage which is to carry it to its destination, it is his "duty" to hand it to the driver, or whether the latter "must not leave his seat" to take it? The question is of so profound and important a nature that it will require some time to consider it in all its bearings, and while we are attempting to prepare an answer, we will ask the querist to inform us what, in his opinion, would be the most judicious course to accomplish the cooking of an egg, supposing the egg to be procured and the water to be boiling? If unable to decide, he is at liberty to consult the stage driver.

Two mortifying blunders of a typographical nature, occurred in our issue of last month. The first was contained in one of our "Answers to Correspondents," in which the type made us give "two cents for each four ounces or fraction thereof," as the proper rate of postage on books, whereas *four cents* is the proper rate. The second error caused *thirty six cents* to be given as the postage on a letter of 14 ounces to Great Britain or Ireland, instead of *seventy two cents*. The pressure of official duties, causing the editor's absence at proof reading time, must be our apology for these mistakes, and we shall try to avoid the appearance of similar ones.

DEATH OF COL. TROTT.

We regret to learn of the recent death, at Washington, of Col. Thos. P. Trott, well known to many of our readers as formerly Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department. At that time the Inspection Office was in charge of the Chief Clerk, and Col. Trott was a faithful and efficient officer. He was the inventor of the reversible labels or tags now in use on the mail pouches, and supplied them under a contract with the Department.

PERSONAL.—

HON. A. N. ZEVELY, Third Assistant Postmaster General, arrived at New York on the 16th ult. from New Orleans. Mr. Zevely has been for some time absent in the South, on an official tour of inspection of postal matters there. C. F. MACDONALD, Esq., Superintendent of the Money Order Department, and who also acted as Third Assistant during Mr. Zevely's absence, sailed on the 14th ult. for Europe, where he intends a brief stay, partly for the benefit of his health, and partly for the purpose of observation of the different postal systems there.

PROGRESSIVE.—

A short time since, two newsboys were arrested, charged with repeated thefts of baggage from the cars on which they pursued their vocation. By a singular coincidence, this road is the same on which some of the Route Agents were in the habit of allowing the newsboys to enter and remain in the mail car—notwithstanding the fact that they (the agents) knew that quite a number of letters, as well as baggage, had been lost on that line. We hope that any who may still be violating the Regulations by allowing newsboys or other "outsiders" to make a lounging place of the mail car, will not wait to hear of another similar arrest before turning over a new leaf in this matter.

POSTAL MAPS.—

During a recent visit to Washington, we had the pleasure of inspecting some of the maps now being prepared by W. L. Nicholson, Esq., the very able Topographer of the Post Office Department. They are arranged in such a manner as to show, by the variation of the colors used in printing the lines representing the mail routes, the mode and frequency of service on each, and with little trouble, alterations corresponding with the changes which may occur in those respects can be made. It is to be hoped that Congress will not fail to make the necessary appropriations for the completion of this series of maps, which will be not only useful to the Department, but of great value to the country at large.

LABOR LOU.—

The Postmaster of New York requests us to state that the practice of enclosing money in letters to him, with requests that he will if he thinks it *advisable*, invest the same, for the writers, in lottery tickets, gold (?) watches, sewing machines, "European time keepers," and the endless variety of trash advertised in newspapers and circulars by swindlers hailing from this city, had better be discontinued, as such foolish demands will meet with no sort of attention beyond the return of the money to the simpletons who send it. We take it for granted that this notice is not intended for the *readers of the Mail*, but if any of them who are postmasters know of any person intending to make such a request, they will please advise him to save his time and postage stamps.

QUINCY'S PATENT LETTER CASE.

—An advertisement setting forth the merits of this case, will be found in this month's *Mail*. It is highly recommended by many postmasters, and as far as we can judge, deserves the praises it has received.

We have been requested by several correspondents to publish a list of Stamps and Stamped Envelopes, a request which we cheerfully comply:

STAMPS.—1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, 90 cents. STAMPED ENVELOPES.—2 cent, un gummed, for circulars; 2 cent, gummed, for drop letters, where there is a free delivery. 3 cent.—No. 1, note; No. 2, letter; extra letter (not numbered); No. 3, official. 6 cent.—No. 2, letter; No. 3, official. 9 cent. No. 3, official. 10 cent. No. 2, letter. 12, 15, 20, 24, 30, 40 cent. No. 3, official.

Answers to Correspondents.

Box Rents.—P. M. F.—

Ohio, (and many others).—Sec. 7, Act of July 1, 1864, (and many others).—That all postage, and box RENTS at post offices, and all other receipts, and emoluments at a post office, shall be received and accounted for as a part of the postal revenue; and any part thereof which the postmaster ought to have collected, but has neglected to collect, shall be charged against him in his account, and he shall be liable therefor in the same manner as the same had been collected; and he shall receive no fee or perquisite beyond his salary. The instructions of the Department under this section, are as follows:—Under the law of March 3, 1863, box rents in all post offices must be paid for at least one quarter in advance. Receipts and emoluments from this and all other sources are heretofore to be accounted for as part of the postal revenue, and forms of accounts will be prescribed accordingly. Our numerous correspondents who write to us on this subject cannot fail to perceive that so long as the above law is unchanged the receipts from box rents at every post office must be paid over to the Department. On the first of July next a review and readjustment of salaries at post offices is to be made, and at those where an increase of business has occurred, a proportionate increase of salary will be allowed.

Registered Letter Receipts, Notification to Publisher, &c.—A. N. S. R.—

Ga.—1. You have confounded the Return Registered Letter Receipt, with the Return Registered Letter Bill. The Receipt must be sent with the letter by the next mail. 2. Notify a publisher by directing to the "postmaster" for the publisher. 3. Letters are to be advertised weekly, and hence you cannot be allowed for more frequent advertising. 4. A copy of May 1, 1865, post go on drop letters is reduced to one cent, except in places where there is a free delivery; in such places it is still two cents. 5. One cent for each letter is now allowed for advertising. 6. Dead letters must each be stamped on the sealed side, and the cause of non delivery written or stamped on the face of the delivery. 7. When a postmaster claims credit for postage stamps or stumped envelopes, alleged to have been lost in the mails, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, his own affidavit stating the circumstances and amount of loss, &c. is required. General, but this will not relieve postmasters from the duty of extraordinary care of their stamps.

Letters to Heads of Departments, &c.—S. F. B.—

N. H.—Instruction 1, Act of May 1, 1865, provides substantially that all communications on official business, of whatever origin, addressed to heads of the Executive Departments of Government, or heads of bureaus therein, or to such chief clerks of departments, as are authorized by the Postmaster General to rank official matter, shall be received and conveyed by mail free of postage, without being franked "Official Business."

Returning Sacks to Mail Agent, &c.—A. D. I. G.—

Ind.—1. You are not bound to return to mail agent the same sack that he leaves off. But mail agents and mail carriers generally to whose office they are returned, it can be done without detriment to your office, it is as well to make a practice of returning the mail in the same bag in which it was received. 2. Circulars can only be distributed in a post office on payment of the proper postage.

Postage on "The Mail."—E. B. R.—

Pa.—Postmasters should pay the postage on "The Mail."

Forwarding Books, &c.—I. J. N. H. B.—

N. H.—Books and other printed matter, forwarded, should be charged with the original postage, to be collected by the Postmaster, and should enter the amount in his proper account, but no bill need be sent with such matter.

Papers free within the County.—E. F. N. T.—

Mo.—To enable a subscriber to receive a newspaper free, he must reside within the county of publication. It is only a weekly newspaper that can be delivered free of postage, if a subscriber's usual post office (not residence) is in an adjoining county he may receive his copy paper free, but not a paper published in the said adjoining county.

Paying Postage on Newspapers.—P. M. N.—

N. Y.—Freight on regular newspapers can be paid either at the mailing office or at the office of delivery through the latter is the usual course; the payment, of course, is to the Postmaster.

Breaking Packages of Papers Directed to One Address.—J. S. C.—

Mich.—Post-masters are required to deliver from a furnished list, all papers upon which the postage has been paid quarterly in advance. This decision is official, and applies to packages of newspapers and periodicals of all kinds.

Credit for Unpaid Letters, &c.

Pa.—1. Credit for unpaid letters received at your office and then forwarded by you, is obtained by entering the amount in the column of overcharges, in the "Account of Un-dercharges, Overcharges, &c.," furnished by the Department at the end of the quarter; the footing of this column is to be entered in No. 10, account current to be enclosed in their papers any thing but "bills and receipts for subscription by regular subscribers." 3. Transient newspapers, books, &c., are to be forwarded, charged with the original postage, to be collected by the postmaster to whose office they are forwarded.

Postage on Printed Matter to Great Britain and Ireland.—A. P. M. W.—

It. The letter postage is twenty-four cents the half ounce, to Great Britain and Ireland, and on pamphlets over eight ounces, and periodicals (over sixteen ounces in weight, the above letter rates must be charged.

Distributing Papers that Require Refolding, &c.—W. K. T. P.—

Ind.—You had better be guided by the amount of time you have. If there is a crowd waiting for you to open the delivery, put the papers aside for a while.

Disposition of Return Registered Letter Receipt, &c.—W. K. T. P.—

It.—1. The return registered letter receipt should be given to the person sending the letter. 2. Bills of applications for money orders are generally issued by the Postmaster of a money order office to applicants only as they are required for immediate use.

Postage on Papers to a Party who has Removed.—

The postage on papers should be collected at the office where they are received, and the papers forwarded charged with the usual postage, or they may be forwarded and charged with both amounts. But the proper way, where a subscriber has removed, is to notify the publisher of the fact, and request him to discontinue sending the paper to your office.

Entries on the Account of Registered Letters Sent, &c.—P. O. Clerk, L.—

O.—1. Enter the name of the office to which you bill the letter, or from which it is billed to you. 2. The amount due for "Dead Letters" returned to the writers" should be separated from the amount due for other letters; but in small offices it is not the practice to do so, but to include the first in the last and make a memorandum of the fact in Nos. 2 A. and 11 A. of quarterly account current.

Right of Mail Carrier to Collect Fees.—T. E. S. D.—

Mass.—The right of mail carrier to collect a fee for conveying a stamped letter to the next post office, was repealed by § 31, Act of March 3, 1865.

Sending Post Bill with Registered Letter to D. P. O.—J. W. L. Fort D.—

Kan.—See the Special Instructions in this No. of the *Mail*.

Claim of Late Postmaster for Stamps.—T. J. S. P.—

Mich.—The late Postmaster has no claim on you for postage stamps transferred to you, if the transfer was made according to regulations.

Disorderly Persons.—W. E. J. III.—

There is no post office law to punish persons creating disturbances in a post office building, but the town constable or justice of the peace would doubtless correct the evil.

Circulars &c.—A. J. B. A.—

Ill.—Circulars directed to persons not residing in the vicinity of your office, and not called for, should be sold and the money credited to the Post Office Department.

Stamp on Oath to Quarterly Return.—L. E. L. S.—

N. Y.—Affix a stamp to your Quarterly Return and to your Report of Boxes. 2. We do not see how a Justice of the Peace can administer an oath to himself.

Marking Stamps.—R. F. R. P.—

II.—Marking stamps are furnished to all offices whose receipts amount to \$75 a year.

Verbal Messages.—L. R. O.—

II.—We do not know why a postmaster has not a right to deliver a verbal message.

Directing Letters to the Old Name of a Post Office.—G. L. R.—

Me.—There is no remedy for the evil you complain of; its worst effects fall upon the correspondents themselves, and they should not complain if their letters do not reach them.

General Account with P. O. Department.

J. T. J. T.—N. Y.—The Department does not furnish blanks for a General Account. Such account should be kept in an ordinary ledger; enter on the Dr. side all sums due by you to the Department, and on the Cr. side all sums claimed by you from the Department. This account should be closed at the end of each quarter; the balance shows what you owe the Department. In your case the \$1 should be entered on the Dr. side as soon as you are notified, and then at the end of that quarter it would be included in the amount due the Department. See Chapter xxiv., Regulations of 1865.

Fitting Up Free Boxes.—W. W. O.—

N. H.—See § 3 of Act of March 3, 1865, provides that "No box at any post office shall be assigned to the use of any person until the rent thereof has been paid for at least one quarter."

Charges on Misset Letters.—J. B. B.—

Wis.—We cannot decide on your case without a better knowledge of all the circumstances. In general, however, no charge should be made for forwarding a *misset* letter properly prepaid; and a postmaster receiving such a *misset* letter with charges on it, should reverse the letter, and enter the amount of charge on the column of overcharges.

Franking Privilege of Members of Congress.—R. D. T. S.—

O.—You were wrong in charging postage. The franking privilege of members of Congress expires on the first Monday of December following their term of office. See Sec. 42, Act of March 3, 1865.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of April, 1866:

Post Office.	County.	State.	Route.
Hammond,	Livingston,	La.	8,072
Canton,	Marion,	W. Va.	4,167
Leopold,	Chester,	Pa.	special
Jacksonville,	Bombard,	Ky.	special
Lead Hill,	Muhlenburgh,	Ky.	9,664
Camp Elkhester,	Randolph,	W. Va.	4,247
Grider,	Bowling,	Ky.	9,839
Enterprise,	Pike,	Ky.	9,707
Mouth of Pond,	Marshall,	Ky.	9,683
Headerson's Mills,	McLean,	Ky.	9,645
Cross Creek,	Bourbon,	Ky.	9,626
Low's Station,	Clover Bottom,	Ky.	special
Woodstock,	Pulaski,	Ky.	special
Strigau's Ferry,	Pulaski,	Ky.	9,626
Meador's Bottom,	Barbour,	W. Va.	4,290
Midway Mills,	Nelson,	Va.	4,411
Ors Labor,	Heron,	Mich.	12,712
East Wilton,	Eston,	Mich.	12,678
Williston,	Prince William,	Va.	special
Quakertown,	Union,	Ind.	12,669
Scott's Station,	Porter,	Ind.	12,199

Post Office.	County.	State.	Route.
Silver Peak,	Esmeralda,	Nev.	16,412
Columbus,	Esmeralda,	Nev.	16,412
James' Bayou,	Mississippi,	Mo.	10,701
Butler,	Bates,	Mo.	special
Perayth,	Mo.	special	
Pineville,	McDonald,	Mo.	special
Fort Shilly,	Dak T.	special	
Haverhill,	Missouri,	special	
Jefferson Lake,	Le Sueur,	Minn.	15,702
Little Kansas,	Idaho T.	15,702	
Detroit,	Dickinson,	Kan.	14,004
Eric,	Brooks,	Kan.	14,047
William's Landing,	New Madrid,	Mo.	not known
Lock Branch,	Montgomery,	Mo.	10,440
Carbago,	Jasper,	Mo.	special
South Swanee,	Shelby,	N. I.	9,208
Gordon,	Alachua,	Fla.	special
Harris' Lot,	Charles,	Fla.	special
Waverly,	Baltimore,	Md.	12,603
Jarrettsville,	Montgomery,	Pa.	special
Shelbeld Depot,	Warren,	Pa.	2,773
Washington,	Brooks,	W. Va.	4,174
Sheridan City,	Vanango,	Pa.	mail mess gr.
West Hickory,	Vanango,	Pa.	mail mess gr.
Dear Creek,	Luzerne,	Pa.	special
Thomas,	Ocean,	Mich.	12,686
Lord's Bridge,	Rapides,	La.	8,085
Belle Rose,	Oldham,	Ky.	special
Van Buren,	Anderson,	Ky.	special
Henrytown,	Logan,	Ky.	9,670
Powersville,	Bracken,	Ky.	9,686
Big Bone,	Boone,	Ky.	9,684
Trotwood,	Montgomery,	Ohio.	12,761
Sherman,	Muskegon,	Mich.	special
Big Plain,	Madison,	Ohio.	special
West Woodville,	West Virginia,	W. Va.	4,174
McNeill's Ferry,	Harris,	N. C.	6,800
Ingham's Mills,	Highland,	Ohio.	9,904
Alert,	Clinton,	N. Y.	10,400
Wickline,	Desatir,	Ind.	12,076
Milleville,	Franklin,	Ind.	12,107
Lynchburg,	Franklin,	Ind.	10,672
Takerville,	Nodaway,	Mo.	10,672
Engle Fork,	Clayton,	Mo.	10,432
Shiel,	Clayton,	Mo.	10,396
Sherman,	Nemaha,	Mo.	14,943
Warrensburg,	Laclede,	Mo.	10,618
Mills Creek,	Clayton,	Mo.	10,692
Landmark,	Howard,	Mo.	special
Edinburgh,	Hidalgo,	Texas.	not known
Flower Hill Depot,	Brewster,	N. Y.	6,811
Lower Valley,	Hunterdon,	N. J.	4,128
Laureville,	Westmoreland,	Pa.	2,939
East Union,	Clayton,	N. Y.	1,419
New River,	Huron,	Mich.	12,678
Douglas,	Allegan,	Mich.	special
Indian Falls,	Genesee,	N. Y.	special
Plants,	Albion,	Ohio.	4,100
Porter's Precinct,	Albion,	Va.	special
Easton,	Adams,	Wis.	special
East Gibson,	Madison,	Wis.	1,170
Benham's Store,	Ripley,	Ind.	special
Fulton,	Appahoo,	Col. T.	17,008
Dona Ana,	Dona Ana,	Mex. T.	17,401
Pond,	St. Louis,	Mo.	special
Bolton,	Harrison,	Mo.	special
Wadesburg,	Wadesburg,	Mo.	10,678
Niobrara,	L'Esquiquier,	Neb. T.	16,561
Baker City,	Baker,	Oregon,	16,222
West Chesterfield,	Chester,	N. I.	489
Toledoville,	Madison,	Ohio.	12,701
Black Lick,	Ocean,	Mich.	12,701
Beaver Falls,	Muskegon,	Mich.	12,701
New Morehead,	Madison,	Ohio.	9,271
Kingston,	Madison,	Ohio.	9,271
Abysville,	Edgecombe,	N. C.	6,824
Barnesville,	Madison,	Ohio.	4,618
Annin Mills,	Hawkins,	Tenn.	not known
Macoupin Station,	Macoupin,	Ill.	11,689
Beaumont,	Washington,	Ill.	11,689
East Summer,	Kankakee,	Ill.	11,623
Newport,	Newport,	Ill.	11,623
Kingston,	Franko,	Cal.	14,724
Clement,	Jefferson,	Kan.	not known
Sadors,	Worth,	Mo.	special
Barrington Centre,	Barrington,	Pa.	4,100
Hillville,	Union,	Ky.	9,601
Shambling's Mills,	Rome,	W. Va.	4,212
West Hill,	Madison,	Mo.	3,269
St. Augustine,	St. Augustine,	Fla.	2,639
Grainsville,	Edmondson,	Ky.	special
Mammoth Cave,	Edmondson,	Ky.	special
Ridley's Roads,	Ridley's Roads,	N. Y.	not known
Marshall,	Richmond,	N. Y.	1,010
Potato Creek,	Montgomery,	Ind.	1,010
La Crose,	La Crose,	Ind.	12,199
Buford's Station,	Giles,	Ind.	10,908
Warwick's X Roads,	Union,	Tenn.	10,081
St. Paul,	St. Paul,	Tenn.	10,081
Mad Lick,	Jefferson,	Ind.	12,116
Mad Lick,	Caee,	Ind.	12,198
Two Corners,	Sumner,	Ala.	not known
York Station,	York,	Pa.	10,971
Ebenezer,	Olay,	Mo.	10,949
Hartzen,	Hartzen,	Mo.	10,971
Lincoln,	Lincoln,	Mo.	10,971
Happy Valley,	Hannover,	Mo.	10,971
Tarlico,	Holt,	Mo.	10,923
Harmon's Fork,	Harmon,	Mo.	10,967
Union Mills,	Cooper,	Mo.	10,967
Stanton Cop. Mines,	Franklin,	Mo.	10,942
Bluff,	Texas,	Mo.	10,685
Licking,	Texas,	Mo.	10,666

DISCONTINUED.

[In the annexed List will be found added, the names of the nearest offices to which matter for those having been discontinued, should be sent.]

Name.	County and State
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UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. VI, No. 9.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1866.

WHOLE No. 69.

Business of the New York Post Office.
We copy from the New York Evening Post some comparative statistics of the former and present operations of the New York Post Office. These figures are interesting, as showing not only a large augmentation of postal business at New York, but as also indicating a corresponding increase throughout the entire country:

One of the great institutions of New York, which grows far more rapidly than population, commerce or wealth, is the post office. During the last quarter of a century, its business has more than quadrupled. This is known by a comparison of the aggregate amount of mail matter which passes through the office.

Thirty-one years ago the receipts, distributions, &c., each day, were about eighteen tons, of which one half came into the office, and the other half was sent away. Now the total weight of the matter received in each twenty-four hours and forwarded is ninety tons.

According to correct estimates and calculations, an average of about fifty-five tons a day of this matter are sent out of the city, and thirty-five tons are received here for our citizens. It appears that the difference of nearly one third in favor of the out-of-town districts in the distribution, is accounted for by the fact that this is the great centre of publication in America, and the number of the books, newspapers, &c., sent by mail, compared with other descriptions of mail matter, is increasing in a very rapid ratio. Two days ago, when not more than the average business was done, the number of mail bags closed here and forwarded to various parts of the country was seven hundred and thirteen; the number received was three hundred and eighty-five—a total of one thousand and eighty-eight. Probably no other fact would represent so forcibly as this does, the extent and variety of the business of the New York Post Office.

The records which are kept at the Post Office show results for the past two or three years of deep interest, and in some respects of an astonishing character. In the short period of about three years and a half, the mail correspondence of our citizens has doubled. There is, it appears, a lively season among the letter writers, not only of New York, but of all the country.

The missives of every kind never came here before to such numbers; the numbers that are conveyed away are equally without example. But it is not so much what now is that tempts curiosity and excites speculation, as what is likely to be not far in the future.

Persons who have given this subject much attention assert with confidence their reasons for believing that in less than a century from this time the city of New York, representing America, and being in the shortest path of travel and commerce between Europe and Asia, will be the postal centre of the world.

The recent action of government in appointing a commission of eminent citizens to select a site for a new post office building, to meet all requirements, and the fact that extensive improvements of the branch offices up town have lately been found necessary, and are now in progress under the direction of Postmaster Kelly, give the various questions relating to our postal affairs a special interest.

In addition to the statements already printed of the work in the General Post Office, we present the following comparative statistics, showing the changes in some departments of the postal business in two or three years:

CARRIERS' DEPARTMENT.		
Letters collected from lamp-post boxes, &c., in 1863	1,550,303	2,671,043
Newspapers, &c., in 1863	183,727	408,484
Total collections by carriers, in 1863	1,734,030	3,079,527
Letters delivered from lamp-post boxes, &c., in 1863	1,999,913	3,379,798
Newspapers, &c., in 1863	124,587	299,307
Total deliveries by carriers, in 1863	2,124,500	3,679,105

The following were the deliveries from the boxes in the post office in the period named:

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.		
Letters delivered in the quarter ending December 31, 1862	3,225,600	
Letters delivered in the quarter ending December 31, 1865	5,276,640	

In four years the increase in the number of foreign letters that went through the post office was about seventy-five per cent, namely:

LETTERS SENT AND RECEIVED FOR THE YEAR ENDING.		
March 31, 1862	4,637,159	
March 31, 1865	7,416,129	
Letters sent with foreign mails in Mar., 1862	27	
Do. departing do. do.	50	
Letters sent with foreign mails in Mar., 1865	48	
Do. departing do. do.	79	

LETTERS COLLECTED AND DELIVERED.
The statistics of the collection and delivery of letters at the post office, and at the various branches, indicate many very important facts. They show a remarkable increase in postal business:

COLLECTIONS.		
The collections made by the collectors from the street letter-boxes in the quarter ending December 31st, 1863, were as follows:		
No. Letters.	Newspapers.	Total.
1,550,303	183,727	1,734,030

DELIVERIES.		
The number of letters and newspapers delivered by the carriers in the quarter ending Dec. 31st, 1862:		
No. Letters.	Newspapers.	Total.
1,999,913	124,587	2,124,500

The deliveries in the quarter ending December 31st, 1865, were:

No. Letters.	Newspapers.	Total.
3,379,798	299,307	3,679,105

Number of letters, &c., delivered in one quarter of 1862: 2,124,500
Increase: 1,556,605

The increase in the collections in two years, it will be seen, is nearly equal to the whole of the collections for the first period named, in 1863, and the increase in the deliveries is 75 per cent.

It should be observed that the vast number of letters, &c., sent directly to the post office is not included in these statements.

Monsieur Tomson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

It is perfectly in keeping with the sensational spirit of the times in which we live, to be impatient, expectant, and dissatisfied, and of course I go with the multitude. The big war which we have so successfully finished up, put healthy and vigorous life into every artery and vein of our national body corporate, and its great heart still throbs with the excitement incident to the development of resources, which, under other circumstances, might have lain dormant for a century. The effect of progress exerting itself everywhere, is seen and felt everywhere; and a restless desire to increase personal and national influence and power, is now as much a part of our general economy as building comfortable houses to live in, or haking bread to live on.

Among other good results produced by the excitement of the last four years, a love of literature has been created, and a steady, healthy demand for books, and periodicals, and newspapers, has grown beyond conception. With all its immensity, however, a corresponding and never-failing supply is to be found.

Letter-writing, too, increased far beyond human calculation, and thousands who learned to appreciate the importance and value of missives to and from our soldiers, became so familiarized through these epistolary communications with each other, that what was willom regarded as a task, grew into a pleasure—and grew, and grew, like Lord Lovell's briar, "till it could not grow any higher,"—the effect of which is to be seen in the increased clerical labor in post offices, and in the plethoric condition of mail bags and pouches passing over our post roads. I think we may now he called a universal letter-writing people; and the amount contributed to the revenue of the Government for the transmission of letters and papers by our people, requires that every postal officer should mentally "take off his coat and roll up his sleeves," to put "things through." It is really amusing to hear officials complain sometimes of the increase of business. I don't know anything about the proportion of help apportioned out to the different offices; but I presume if there is business enough for a dozen clerks, authority would be granted to employ a dozen; but in some places where I have been, and have heard functionaries complain to their neighbors of hard labor, I noticed that several hours of each day were devoted exclusively to the use of ancient merschaums, the smoke from which made the atmosphere of their offices anything but sweet-scented. The only hard labor I could see about the establishment was the exhaustive efforts to suck smoke through the time-worn and possibly clogged pipe-stems which they had in their mouths. And just here allow me to say that I could send you a pencil sketch of a postmaster and his clerk, who, I am told, never take their pipes from their mouths, except when they are eating, and sometimes they do not even do it then. However, I did not intend to say so much on the pipe subject. I have adverted to it before, and you know where I stand on the subject. I will only say that I am fond of tobacco, and like to smoke myself; but I do not think a place of business where ladies are obliged to come, should be used for such purposes any more than a church, a concert-room or nursery. A little more work, and a little less smoke, would make a better average.

But I was talking about increase of letter-writing. This great stimulant to social progress should be encouraged and fostered, and I believe all the efforts of the Postmaster General tend that way. The increase in the carrier system—the introduction of railway postal cars—and various other modes and plans for giving celerity and certainty to letters, and ensuring the safety of their contents, show conclusively what pains his Department takes to perfect the system of mail service. Now if his deputies and other aids fail to co-operate, they not only mar his arrangements and defeat his expectations and calculations, but they, in my humble opinion, as a high private, disqualify themselves for position or commendation.

As a body, the postal community of course, reflect great credit on the Government; but, as in every other branch, there are some "whose feathers run the other way," and whose contrary natures look every way but the right one. These are the ones to whom I speak the words of "truth and soberness," when I say, that when you need friends to see you out, they won't be found. Your positions give you influence while

you hold it; but if you have to let go to split on your hands for a fresh grip, you are gone up.

Therefore let me, as a benevolent layman, enjoin upon you to encourage learning and letter-writing; enjoin upon your clerks to be strictly men of letters, and, during business hours, nothing else (if your clerks are ladies, they will need no instructions). Let them be models of industry, discretion, and promptness; satisfy everybody that it is "no trouble to show goods at your establishments;" be on the quiz size yourself all the time you can; and your clerks' kindness and attention will make you as "invincible as an army with banners."

See that your mails are promptly received and despatched; your letters carefully assorted, examined and delivered, and legibly stamped, cancelled, wrapped, and put off in time. See that your office is kept in good order, and the Government property in your charge properly cared for; see that your mail messengers are prompt and prudent, and that the pouches and bags are not delayed at depots and stations, or misused or abused, and everything else that comes within the purview of your duty, which needs your official attention—stand not on the order of doing, but do asence.

MONSIEUR TOMSON.

Mail and Female Losses.

It would seem, from the following extracts from the diary of one whose business is the investigation of losses by mail, that an epidemic of a singular nature has lately seized upon the correspondence of a portion of the fair sex. For the benefit of all concerned, we publish the "diagnoses" of some of the more "marked cases," and think it likely that most of our readers will be able, after a careful study of the "symptoms" to tell "just what's the matter":

Case No. 1.—Mrs. X. expected a registered letter from Europe, to be addressed to her at a small village where she was temporarily residing, but being disappointed in her expectation, returned to New York, leaving directions with the village Postmaster to forward the letter to the Postmaster of New York should it arrive. It did arrive shortly thereafter, and was forwarded as requested, Mrs. X. receiving it on application. It was from the aunt of Mrs. X., and as the writer stated, had contained seven Bank of England notes, value £65, when mailed, but when opened only one £5 note appeared. This unfortunate state of things naturally aroused in the mind of Mrs. X. a suspicion that there was "something wrong somewhere," and she requested an investigation, which being made, revealed the fact that the letter had been prepaid but one rate of postage, although, on enclosing therein seven Bank of England notes, three rates were found to be the proper charge. As all registered letters must be fully prepaid before being forwarded, and as, in addition to this weighty circumstance, there were one or two others, touching the relations of the writer with Mrs. X., which finally convinced the complainant that "aunt had tried to cozen her," the case was "discharged—cured."

Case No. 2.—An artist made a complaint that a letter from a lady friend, in which she had enclosed a ten dollar greenback, in payment of a trifling order executed by him, had, before reaching him, been rifled of its valuable contents, and in proof of his statement exhibited the letter, to which a small portion of the note still adhered, and the envelope, which had been neatly opened at the end, and as neatly reclosed with mullage. He was requested to write to the lady, informing her of the absence of the money, and stating that the flap of the envelope showed no signs of having been tampered with. In due time, an answer was received in which, with much extraneous matter of the "gushing" order, and many minute particulars as to the enclosure of the money, the suggestion was made to the artist to "examine carefully the end of the envelope." This rather strange coincidence somewhat staggered his hitherto strong faith in his fair patroness—and when an additional circumstance was brought to his attention, namely: that the fragment adhering to the letter was beyond all doubt a portion of a one dollar note, his faith disappeared altogether, he following the example, after some rather confused apologies for "unnecessary trouble," &c.

Case No. 3.—"Minnie," from the country, visited her friend "Susie," in the city, and on her return sent "Susie" a letter requesting the purchase of a dress—leaving the selection entirely to the latter's taste, and referring casually to the enclosure of sixteen dollars to be used for the purpose together with two dollars for "Uncle William." But no money appearing, and the envelope bearing undoubted evidences of having been opened and resealed, Susie applied at the City Post Office for an investigation. Being instructed to request some further particulars from Minnie, she did so, and among other particulars, (in a letter with so many words underscored, in feminine fashion, as to make it look like a fit of hysterics) got these: "The Postmaster here tells me that it was not done in his office, and I do not think so either. He says letters can be opened by steaming, without the least fear of detection." Indiscreet Minnie! The Postmaster, on being interrogated, denied that Minnie

had ever mentioned the subject to him, or given the least hint of any such loss; and Minnie, on being requested to swear to the pretty little story she had told, wept copiously, and promised never to do so again.

The fact is, ladies, "your little heads were never made" for the concoction of such schemes for throwing the blame of your own little misdeeds on the Post Office. You will be sure to "make a mess of it" in some way, and spoil all by doing just a little too much. Knavery is outside of your "sphere," and you had better leave its practice, like electioneering and fighting, to the men, to whom it comes more natural—perhaps.

Box Rents.

The unsettled and incorrect opinions which seem to prevail among postmasters, respecting "Box Rents," induces us to make the matter the subject of an editorial article, and give to it more importance, and claim for it greater and more extended attention than would be accorded to it when noticed in our column of Answers to Correspondents.

In order to cover the whole field, we give in full the law and instructions hearing on the subject:

Act of March 3d, 1863, Sec. 3, provides that "no box at any post office shall be assigned to the use of any person until the rent has been paid for at least one quarter, and keep a record master shall give a receipt, and keep a record thereof in his office." "Instruction 3, immediately following, provides: "Each postmaster must keep a list of all box holders, with the number of the box assigned to each, and the time during which he has used it. This list will be examined by special agents, and be delivered to his successor in office. The postmaster must state in his quarterly returns, the amount of box-rents accrued in each quarter, whether he has collected them or not."

The Act establishing salaries for postmasters was approved July 1, 1864. By this Act—

"The basis on which salaries is adjusted, is the aggregate compensation of postmasters as derived from commissions, box rents, or other sources."

Sec. 7 of same Act provides, "That all postage and box rents at post offices, and all other receipts and emoluments at a post office shall be received and accounted for as a part of the postal revenues; any part thereof which the postmaster ought to have collected, but has neglected to collect, shall be charged against him in the same manner as if he had been liable therefor in the same manner as if he had been liable therefor." In regard to this question of box rents, our correspondence shows that two difficulties present themselves to postmasters. The first, that as the boxes are generally the private property of the postmaster, and the rents heretofore have been private property also, there seems an injustice in the Department requiring them to account for such rents. This is not so, however; for where postmasters have complied with the instruction of the Act of 1863, and rendered an account "of all emoluments or sums by them respectively received for boxes or pigeon-holes, or other receptacles for letters or papers, or for the delivery of letters, and of all other emoluments, receipts, and profits," the amount of box rents is included in the allowance as salary, it being the design of the law that the "salaries should be made equal, as nearly as may be, to the compensation heretofore received." Postmasters, therefore, should be satisfied that where they have complied with the requirements of the law, and "assigned no box at any post office to the use of any person, until the rent therefor has been paid for at least one quarter," and have also reported quarterly to the Department the amount received for box rents, such amount, as nearly as may be, is included in the salaries assigned to them; where, however, boxes have been assigned, without collecting rent therefor, and no report of box rents has been made in proper time,—that is, previous to July, 1864,—postmasters who are now called upon to account for box rents must not consider it a hardship, for the loss is through their own negligence.

The second difficulty which presents itself to postmasters respecting box rents, is that of ownership in boxes. We find that in some offices boxes have been put up by a general subscription, with the understanding that the subscribers should have the use of the boxes without the payment of rent. The law makes no provision for such ownership, and evidently did not intend to recognize it; for the language is clear and unmistakable, that "no box shall be assigned to any person till the rent is paid for at least one quarter." Ownership in boxes is also impracticable, for heretofore box rents being the perquisite of the postmaster, no postmaster could bind his successor either in the rent or in such ownership. All control of boxes ends with the term of office of the postmaster, and any claim against his successor could only be made good by the good nature of the latter. This is the law of the case. But it seems to be thought unjust that parties who have paid for boxes, with the understanding that they were to own them, should now be compelled by the Government to pay rent for them. This is not so; for having paid the boxes free for so long a time, they have already received more in value than the cost of them. If they should aver that the postmaster

by collecting rent would obtain the ownership of boxes which cost him nothing, they have only to reflect that the boxes can be transferred from postmaster to postmaster, as heretofore. Should there be any who would refuse to accede to this arrangement, it would be the postmaster's duty to take away the boxes, and have a new set made at his own expense; the rent for them would more than repay him for the outlay.

A new adjustment of salaries will be made after the 1st of July; box rents will be a part of the basis of this adjustment; we would, therefore, advise postmasters who have not heretofore collected rent for boxes to do so at once, and return the amount, with their Quarterly Returns for the present quarter; the amount of rents will then be included in the new salaries assigned to them. It would look rather bad for a postmaster, should a Special Agent visit his office, and see a goodly lot of boxes, ask to examine his box account, and be told that there was none, no rent being collected. He, the postmaster, might be called on to pay moneys, which, through his own negligence, he had never received, and he might be called on to hand over his books, papers, &c., to a successor.

We wish this article to be a reply to all correspondence on the subject of box rents, whether to what we have received, or what we may receive.

Registering Letters to a D. P. O.

Notwithstanding our many and repeated instructions for registering letters, a misapprehension still prevails as to how to direct registered letter packages to a D. P. O. We therefore propose to give such full instruction that we think they cannot be mistaken.

Registered letters, to go out of the State, should be sent to the nearest D. P. O. on their route. Let us now suppose that you are postmaster at A—, N. Y., and that on the 1st of June, you have one, two, or three registered letters to go out of the State, and that New York is the nearest D. P. O. on their routes. You will then fill in the heading of a Registered Letter Bill to read thus:

"Registered Letters from A—, June— 1866, to New York D. P. O."

You will then enclose the registered letters and this bill in a sealed envelope, mark this envelope "Registered," and direct it "Postmaster, New York," (not Postmaster, New York D. P. O.), and put it in the package for delivery, the same as if it was an ordinary letter to the postmaster, also put with it a common post bill, marked 1, in the column headed "Reg." The reason for putting it with the letters for delivery is, that it is an official letter from the postmaster at A— to the postmaster at New York, and should therefore be sent directly to him, and reach him, or his proper clerk, unopened.

Postmasters should make themselves thoroughly familiar with the Regulations for registering letters, for though the Department is not responsible in case of a loss, yet in equity, if not in law, a postmaster is liable for losses occasioned by ignorance or carelessness.

Registered letters mailed direct, should also be put in sealed envelopes, and directed to the postmaster at the office to which they are sent.

Distributing Post Offices.

In the list of Distributing Post Offices contained in the advance sheets of the new Regulations, there were one or two errors, which were copied by us last month. We therefore give below a corrected list of the Distributing Post Offices in the United States on the first of April last:

Boston, Mass.	St. Louis, Missouri.
Portland, Maine.	Louisville, Kentucky.
Hartford, Connecticut.	San Francisco, Cal.
New York, New York.	Sacramento, Cal.
Buffalo, New York.	Norfolk, Virginia.
Albany, New York.	Richmond, Virginia.
Philadelphia, Penn.	Kanawha C. H., W. Va.
Pittsburgh, Penn.	Raleigh, North Carolina.
Baltimore, Md.	Montgomery, Alabama.
Washington, D. C.	Charleston, S. C.
Wheeler, Virginia.	Savannah, Georgia.
Cincinnati, Ohio.	Columbus, Georgia.
Cleveland, Ohio.	Nashville, Tennessee.
Detroit, Michigan.	Memphis, Tennessee.
Indianapolis, Indiana.	Little Rock, Arkansas.
Chicago, Illinois.	Napoleon, Arkansas.
St. Joseph, Missouri.	Galveston, Texas.

MAIL FACILITIES TO THE WEST.—The St. Louis (Mo.) Democrat, of May 19th, remarks: "Gradually we are lessening the distance between the Atlantic and Mississippi sections of the country and those of the Rocky Mountains and Pacific slope, and approaching the railroad stage of transportation. The contract for the delivery of the Santa Fe mail this year shows a long stride in the progress of postal events. When New Mexico was annexed, some nineteen or twenty years since, a monthly mail was all that the government was willing to afford. Then a semi-monthly connection was adopted, and afterwards a weekly. This last has existed for the past four or five years, but is now about to give way to a tri-weekly. The starting point under this new arrangement is Lawrence, selected on account of its advanced position on the old trail and its railroad facilities to the East. In a few seasons the departure will be from some other locality still farther West, and so it will proceed until we shall witness, in a decade more, perhaps, a train or two a day from the Mississippi to the Rio Grande."

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK.
J. GAYLER, Editor.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1866.

TERMS.—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.
Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to this Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I consider the U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its usefulness, and the range of its circulation. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:
Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance, or as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, Oct. 13, 1864.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your communication to that all my predecessors, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the UNITED STATES MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT, as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal operations; and cheerfully recommend to the latter and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whom this number reaches, marked 65 or 66, will please remit at once.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result, and that when such changes before them as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official information on the postal matters.

POSTAGE TO THE DUTCH WEST INDIES BY FREIGHT MAIL.—We are requested to state that, from the first of July next, letters posted in the United States and addressed to the Dutch West Indies, (Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius, and St. Martin,) may be transmitted to destination, via France, in the French Mail, at a postage-charge of 33 cents for each single rate of one quarter ounce or under; prepayment being optional with the sender.

AN ACT

To provide that the "Soldier's Individual Memorial" shall be carried through the mails at the usual rate of printed matter.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That the ornamental records of the personal services of Federal officers and soldiers, composed partly of written and partly of printed matter, but containing no private communications, and known as the "Soldier's Individual Memorial," shall be allowed to pass through the mails upon the payment of the usual postage on printed matter.

Approved April 17, 1866.

The new edition of the Post Office Laws and Regulations will be issued to postmasters at an early day. In mentioning the work in our last issue, we neglected to notice its very superior typographical execution, which is creditable in the highest degree to the Government Printing Office, where the work was performed.

STONE'S POST OFFICE ACCOUNT BOOK.—We have examined a specimen of the above book, advertised in another column by Mr. M. H. Stone, Assistant P. M. at Burlington, Vt., and are satisfied that its use by postmasters would be of great advantage to them in enabling them to keep their newspaper postage and box rent accounts correctly, with little expenditure of labor, and in a most convenient form. From the many letters which we have received from our subscribers on this subject, it would seem that the proper mode of keeping these accounts is, especially to postmasters at the smaller offices, a matter of considerable difficulty, and we cheerfully recommend the use of Mr. Stone's account book as a ready means of avoiding all those mistakes and complications which are apt to result from a less simple and systematic method.

Post-mark Letters Distinctly.

It is an established fact, that the mode of working a reformation is, "by line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little." We therefore again allude to the subject which heads this article. It seems to us that many postmasters have not a correct idea of the necessity for a distinct, legible post-mark, or if they have, they also have very careless habits; which is the more blame-worthy, ignorance or carelessness, we leave to moralists to decide, and will only remark that both are entirely out of place in a post office.

Although it should be sufficient to secure a legible post-mark, that the Regulations require it, yet there are some few men who cannot be induced to do what they should, merely because required by a superior authority, but must know "the why and the wherefore." We will state a few reasons in favor of our subject.

The post-mark on a letter is often the only means of discovering anything of either the writer of a letter or the party to whom it is addressed; it is often of great assistance in deciding which of two or more claimants of similar names is entitled to a letter; it enables a postmaster to return a misdirected letter to the office where it was mailed, to have the direction corrected, instead of sending it to the Dead Letter Office, and thus saving as many weeks as it would in general take days to have the correction made; it is often of value as legal evidence; it assists in tracing lost letters, and it adds to the credit of the postmaster, and of the office where the letter is mailed.

We will add a few plain directions: Clean your stamps frequently, at least once a week; provide a good ink-pot of cloth, leather, or printer's roller composition, and then, with some good printer's ink, spread very thinly on the pad, you cannot fail to secure a distinct, legible post-mark. To clean your stamp, use benzine, camphene, or burning fluid, the first being the best.

We would again caution postmasters against paying any sort of attention to requests, from persons in New York and elsewhere, to send lists of the names of those who receive letters within their deliveries. These requests come from rascals who make their living by furnishing the names so obtained, at a certain price per hundred, to the bogus lottery and jewelry certificate swindlers, who use them in directing their lying circulars. All postmasters who do not wish to be made accomplices in cheating their neighbors will throw such requests as we have mentioned in the waste baskets. Tax collectors and assessors are also applied to for the same vile purpose, and if our paper reached them, they should give them a similar warning.

REGISTERING LETTERS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Many postmasters seem to be under the mistaken impression, that letters can be registered to any part of the world; and letters are received daily at the New York office for transmission abroad, on which a registry fee has been paid at the mailing office, but which are obliged to be sent from the New York office as unregistered. Letters cannot be registered to any of the following countries:

France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Holland, Asia, Africa, Australia, Oceania, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, nor to any of the Islands or Colonies of the various powers, (except Canada and Jamaica,) nor to any part of this continent, other than the United States, except Canada.

The registry fee to Canada, Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, is but five cents; to all other places to which letters can be registered, twenty cents.

Return receipts should not be sent with registered letters addressed to foreign countries.

An Ocean Post Office.

From Victor Hugo's last work, *Les Travailleurs de la Mer*, ("The Toilers of the Sea,") we copy the following account of a Post Office, without either postmaster or clerks. The description is given in a conversation between two characters in the book—sea-captains:

"Didn't you say, Captain, that the 'Tamanian' would not touch anywhere?"
"Yes; she goes direct to Chili."
"In that case, she can send no news of herself on the voyage."
"I beg your pardon, Captain Clinbin. In the first place, she can send any letters by vessels she may meet sailing for Europe."
"That is true."
"Then there is the ocean letter-box?"
"What do you mean by the ocean letter-box?"
"Don't you know what that is, Captain Clinbin?"
"No."
"When you pass the Straits of Magellan—"
"Well."
"Show all around you; always bad weather; ugly down-weather, and bad seas."
"We'll."
"When you have doubled Cape Monmouth—"
"Well, what next?"
"Then you double Cape Valentine."
"And then?"
"Why, then you double Cape Isidore."
"And afterwards?"
"You double Point Anne."
"Good. But what is it you call the ocean letter-box?"

"We are coming to that. Mountains on the right, mountains on the left. Penguins and stormy petrels all about. A terrible place. Ah! by Jove, what a howling and what cracks you get there! The hurricane wants no help. That's the place for holding on to the sheer-rails—for reefing topsails. That's where you take in the main-sail and fly the jib-sail; or take in the jib-sail and try the storm-jib. Gusts upon gusts! And then sometimes four, five or six days of cap-reech. Often only a rag of canvas left. What a dance! Signals enough to make a three-master skip like a fish. I saw once a cabin-boy hanging on to the jibboom of an English brig, 'The True Blue,' knocked jibboom and all, to ten thousand fathoms. F-f-floes are swept into the air there like butterflies. I saw the second mate of the 'Revenue,' a pretty schooner, knocked from under the fore-crosstree, and killed dead. I have had my beer-kails smashed and come out with all my sails in ribbons. Fligates of fifty guns make

water-like wicker baskets. And the damnable coast! Nothing can be imagined more dangerous. Rocks all jagged edges. You come, by-and-by, to Port Famine. There it's worse and worse. The worst sea I ever saw in my life. The devil's own latitudes. All of a sudden you spy the words, painted in red, 'Post Office.'"

"What do you mean, Captain Gertrals?"
"I mean, Captain Clinbin, that immediately after doubling Point Anne you see, on a rock, a hundred feet high, a great post with a barrel suspended to the top. This barrel is the letter-box. The English sailors must needs go and write up there. 'Post Office.' What had they to do with it? It is the ocean post office. It isn't the property of that worthy gentleman, the King of England. The box is common to all. It belongs to every flag. Post Office; there's a crack-jaw word for you. It produces an effect on me as if the devil had suddenly offered me a cup of tea. I will tell you now how the postal arrangements are carried out. Every vessel which passes sends to the post a boat with despatches. A vessel coming from the Atlantic, for instance, sends there its letters for Europe; and a ship coming from the Pacific, its letters for New Zealand or California. The officer in command of the boat puts his packet into the barrel, and takes away any packet he finds there. You take charge of these letters, and the ship which comes after you takes charge of yours. As ships are always going to and fro, the continent whence you come is that to which I am going. I carry your letters; you carry mine. The barrel is made fast to the post with a chain. And it rains, snows, and hails! A pretty sea. Theimps of Satan fly about on every side. The 'Tamanian's' will pass there. The barrel has a good lid with a hinge, but no padlock. You see, a fellow can write all his friends this way. The letters come safely."

"It is very curious," muttered Clinbin, thoughtfully.

SALES OF STAMPS AND ENVELOPES.

The following is a statement of the sales of postage stamps and envelopes at the New York office for the last quarter of each year since 1862, and for the first quarter of the present year:

Quarter ending	December 31, 1862	1863	1864	1865	1866
Stamps	\$240,667 85	271,106 16	1864	341,706 98	421,544 08
Envelopes	46,272 74	42,672 74	March 31, 1866	42,672 74	42,672 74

OLD RATES OF POSTAGE.

The improvements made in the postal system of this country during the past few years have been so numerous and useful, that it is difficult to comprehend at once their extent and value. The revolution in the post office has been as complete as that in the means of public travel; and the progress has been, in some respects, more rapid. Only a few years ago the rate of postage was twenty-five cents for considerable distances. For that sum, it will be remembered, one piece of paper was allowed to be sent, and every additional piece was charged for as an additional letter. For shorter distances deductions in the prices were made.

The following abstract of the old law is interesting for the curious comparison it furnishes:

RATES OF POSTAGE.

For Single Letters, composed of one piece of Paper.

Any distance not exceeding	Miles.	Cts.
Over 30 and not exceeding	30	10
Over 100 and not exceeding	100	12 1/2
Over 150	150	15
Over 200	200	17 1/2
Over 400	400	25

Double letters, or those composed of two pieces of paper, are charged with double these rates.

All letters weighing one ounce or upwards, or more, are charged at the rate of single postage for each ounce according to their weight; and no letter can be charged with more than quadruple postage unless it is carried over one hundred miles.

Triple letters, or those composed of three pieces of paper, are charged with triple these rates.

Quadruple letters, or those composed of four pieces of paper, are charged with quadruple these rates.

NEWSPAPERS.

For each newspaper not carried out of the state in which it is published, or if carried out of the state, not over one hundred miles, one cent; over one hundred miles, and out of the state in which it is published, one and a-half cents.

MAGAZINES AND PAMPHLETS.

If published periodically, distance not exceeding 100 miles, 1 cent per sheet.

Exceeding 100 miles, 2 cents per sheet.

If not published periodically, distance not exceeding 100 miles, 4 cents.

Exceeding 100 miles, 8 cents.

Small pamphlets containing not more than half-sheet royal are charged with half these rates.

The letters, &c., on which this postage was due, were ordinarily carried on stage coaches at a speed of perhaps six miles an hour.

Answers to Correspondents.

N. B.—In future, correspondence, to receive attention, must be accompanied by the name and full post office address of the writer.

Notice to Publishers.—L. S. C., Mass.—Enclose your notices to the postmaster at the publisher's place of business, the postmaster will see them delivered. The newspaper law you quote has no reference to the postal law on the subject of papers.

Postage on Insurance Plates.—E. M. E., Mt. P., Iowa.—Postage on insurance plates should be charged at letter rates.

Franking Privilege.—J. McO., Mo., Ill.—Instruction 1, accompanying Act of May 1, 1865, provides, "That all communications on official business, of whatever origin, addressed to heads of the Executive Departments of Government, or heads of bureaus therein, or to Chief Clerks of Departments, or one authorized by the Postmaster General to frank official matter, shall be received and conveyed by mail free of postage, without being franked or endorsed 'Official Business.'"

Franking Privilege.—J. R. B., Pa.—See preceding answer.

Postage on Internal Revenue Returns.—W. H. I., Ky.—Internal Revenue Returns, containing receipts, are chargeable with letter postage.

Carriers Delivering Mails.—F. B. C., Col.—A carrier or contractor is obliged to deliver mails as near to the door of a post office as convenient, even if he should have to leave the main road. You had better report the facts of the case to the Contract Office, P. O. Dep't.

Delivering Mail Pouches on Mail Cars.—C. F. S., G.—P., Ill.—Failure to receive or deliver mails, or any delinquencies on the part of mail contractors, should be reported to the 2d Assistant P. M. Gen., Contract Office, Inspection Division, Washington, D. C.

Exchanges Between Publishers.—Sec. 43, act of March 3, 1863, provides that "publishers may exchange periodicals, magazines and newspapers." The terms of exchange would seem to be left to the publishers—and it could not be otherwise, as such matter varies in value, or in terms of subscription.

Ownership of Boxes.—P. M. R., N. Y.—The Department evidently does not recognize an ownership in boxes, and parties who purchased boxes did so subject to the laws and regulations of the Department. Sec. 3d, Act of March 3d, 1863, requires that "no box at any post office shall be assigned to the use of any person until the rent therefor has been paid for at least one quarter." See article on this subject in the present number.

Postage on Papers to Regular Subscribers in Canada.—W. F. C., D., O.—Postage on such papers is chargeable at the regular rates, payable at the office of mailing. See Sec. 150, Regulations of 1859.

P. O. Directories and Marking Stamps.—R. D. R., Mo.—1. Each postmaster is furnished gratuitously with a P. O. Directory. 2d. Postmasters whose gross receipts are less than \$75 per annum, must obtain marking stamps at their own expense.

Postage on Package of Newspapers Published within the County, and sent to one Address.—The letter containing this inquiry has unfortunately been mislaid, but we give the reply as follows: The postage on such package is two cents for four ounces, the privilege of receiving a county paper free being limited to one copy.

Legal Tender for Postage Stamps.—R. W. C., Miss.—Yes, national currency is a legal tender for postage stamps, as well as in all post office business.

Postage on Papers to a Subscriber who has Changed his Post Office Address.—C. M. H., W.—You should send a receipt to the postmaster. This would be evidence that the postage had been paid; he would not then demand additional postage.

Newspapers Containing Enclosure.—R. E. R., S.—You did right in charging letter postage. Postmasters are authorized to examine all newspapers, if it can be done without destroying the wrapper; if it cannot, then to charge letter postage.

Letters Going out of the State.—W. B. R., O.—Letters for post offices in other States and Territories, which should not pass through a distributing office on their proper route to the office of delivery, must be mailed direct; all other such letters must be mailed to the nearest P. O.

P. O. Directory.—F. R. P., P.—O. The latest P. O. Directory published by the Department was issued in 1862. The American News Company, of this city, issued one in the beginning of the present year.

Returning Request Letters; Disposition of Mislaid Letters, &c.—W. W. F., Ind.—1. Request letters should be returned immediately after they are refused, and not held till the time expires. 2. Letters mislaid, or directed to places not known, should be returned to the mailing office, for "better direction," or to be sent to the Dead Letter Office. If they cannot be returned to the mailing office, send them to the Dead Letter Office. 3. It is the duty of the first P. M. who discovers a letter in a stray or cannot be delivered, to take the proper care of it.

Postage on Trusses.—C. W. G., O.—Ill.—Trusses are to be charged at letter rates; all are articles not named in Sec. 20, Act of March 3, 1863.

Affixing Stamps, Making Change, Mutilated Currency, &c.—W. T. W., Mt. V., N. Y.—1. Postmasters are not required to affix stamps to letters; 2. nor are they required to make change, but courtesy often demands that the law does not, and in nothing more frequently than in money transactions. 3. You are not obliged to redeem mutilated currency, but you are obliged to receive it in payment for stamps, provided not more than one-tenth is missing. 4. You cannot "frank" to the editor or publishers of the Mail.

Mutilated Currency.—M. E. D., B., Ind.—See preceding answer.

Old Records and Papers.—H. Z. J., P., Ind.—Old accounts of units received, quarterly accounts, and other similar papers up to within two years, may be sold, and the proceeds credited to the Department.

Printed Matter to more than One Address.—J. P. F., Ala.—Packages of newspapers, printed matter, or other articles, must be prepaid for each address, unless the postage be paid quarterly in advance. They must also be sent to regular subscribers (or news-dealers) to entitle them to pass at quarterly rates at all. Any package of papers to one address, prepaid at transient rates by stamps, should be delivered. If bearing more than one address, and postage paid as if for one address, transient postage must be collected from each person addressed, on delivery.

Wrapping Paper.—J. M. F., West H., Vt.—If your salary amounts to \$12.50 a quarter you are entitled to wrapping paper and twine. You can get them by writing to Beverly Clark, Esq., Blank Agent P. O. D., New York.

Stopping Letters Passing Through a Post Office.—A. J. D., Lake C., Ill.—A postmaster has no right to stop letters addressed to another office, even to deliver them to the party having a right to them.

Open and Closed Mails.—A. L. C., G., Ark.—Letters by the "open mail" are sent to London, England, and from thence to their destination. Letters by a closed mail are put into pouches that are not opened till they reach the country to which they are sent. Letters for South America are sent to England or France, in cases where there is no mail communication between the United States and South American Governments.

Ass't P. M. Signing Quarterly Returns.—P. M. T., H., Mo.—An Assistant P. M. can only sign quarterly returns in case of the unavoidable absence of the postmaster.

Advertising Letters.—W. J. H., N. Y.—In offices of the Fourth Class, letters are to be advertised once a month, by posting a written list in the post office, and no payment is allowed therefor.

Monthly Account of Postage, &c.—W. F. C., Tenn.—1. Monthly accounts of postage must be sent quarterly, with the quarterly returns. 2. Quarterly returns must be sworn to at whatever trouble. 3. No allowance is made for advertising letters, unless the list is printed.

Postage on Photographs.—F. W. P., B., Me.—The word photograph, in postal matters, does not include all pictures made by the action of light, but only those commonly known by that name, the postage on which is two cents for four ounces; all others, letter rates.

Right of News Dealers to Receive Bills in their Packages, &c.—W. F. C., Ill.—1. News dealers cannot receive bills in their packages, without subjecting the whole package to letter postage. 2. When a newspaper is refused, the publisher should be immediately notified, and requested to discontinue the paper. Enclose such notice in an envelope to the postmaster.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of May, 1866:

ESTABLISHED.

Post Office.	County.	State.	Route.
*Knox,	Waldo,	Me.	97
Aurion,	Dundee,	N. J.	2,066
Linden,	Union,	N. J.	2,106
South Danville,	Calcedonia,	Vt.	602
East Landan,	Grafton,	N. H.	special
Dayton,	York,	Me.	1,808
Laurel Grove,	Clay,	Pa.	6,420
Deal,	Monmouth,	N. J.	2,968
East Grove,	Franklin,	Me.	2
Knos,	Knos,	Me.	2
Black River,	Windor,	Vt.	468
Essex,	New London,	Cl.	326
Brookford,	Kent,	Del.	3,130
Fieldborough,	New Castle,	Del.	3,310
Andy,	Sussex,	Del.	special
East Pine Grove,	Warren,	Pa.	1,751
South Bethlehem,	Northampton,	Pa.	2,310
Orleans & Hoist,	Morgan,	W. Va.	2,218
Wheatport,	Westmore,	Pa.	8,008
Kemp Hill,	Lawrence,	Ky.	4,722
*Beech Fork,	Washington,	Ky.	special
Rock Haven,	W. Va.	4,288	
Spring Hill,	Hickman,	Ky.	9,502
South Danville,	Boyle,	Ky.	9,687
Alcotin,	Boyle,	Ky.	9,505
East Denala,	Baltimore,	Md.	1,202
Willow,	Luzerne,	Pa.	2,370
Dismore,	Washington,	Pa.	2,829
Williamsport,	Clinton,	W. Va.	4,292
Grant O. H.,	Grant,	Pa.	"
Locust Grove,	Grant,	Pa.	"
Greenland,	Grant,	Pa.	"
Raymondville,	Grant,	Pa.	"
Clayville,	Clayville,	Pa.	"
*High Landing,	Clayville,	Pa.	4,115
*Cornwall,	Ritchie,	Pa.	3,902
*Barnsville,	Monroe,	Pa.	2,392
Volcano,	Volcano,	Pa.	4,999
Haden's Store,	Madison,	Ky.	4,298
Kemp Hill,	Frederick,	Md.	special
Yellow Blouse,	Hicks,	Pa.	2,284
Coal Run,	Hicks,	Pa.	9,702
*Mauldin,	Jackson,	Pa.	9,602
*Dublin,	Graves,	Pa.	special
Washington,	Shanklin,	Pa.	"
Shanklin,	Clark,	Pa.	"
*Poe,	Beaver,	Pa.	2,620
Greenock,	Greenock,	Pa.	not known
Sauvies Island,	Multnomah,	Oreg.	12,102
Bennet's Station,	Sumner,	Ala.	7,903
Bell Factory,	Madison,	Ala.	7,077
*Deut C. H.,	Madison,	Ala.	10,352
*William's Ridge,	Miller,	Pa.	10,691
*Wolf Creek,	Wright,	Pa.	13,843
*Stockunchuck,	Washington,	Wash.	16,418
Black Stock,	Chester,	S. C.	not known
Island Creek,	Wyandotte,	Kan.	14,097
East Fortnash,	Franklin,	Oreg.	special
Ingham,	Franklin,	Iowa,	12,202
Wilson,	Otto,	Nebr.	14,411
Lincoln,	Clatsop,	Wash.	15,416
West Quincy,	Marion,	Ind.	10,402
Englewood's Mills,	Dade,	Fla.	10,501
*Hick Grove,	Adairson,	Pa.	10,699
*Gambin,	Sellie,	Pa.	10,923
*Mala Bond,	Howell,	Pa.	10,731
*West Plains,	Simney's Creek,	Pa.	10,674
*Frank City,	Bates,	Pa.	10,889
*Molock,	Jasper,	Pa.	14,652
*Crescent Hill,	Sherman,	Pa.	10,099
Sherman,	Blue Earth,	Mn.	13,873
Courtland,	Nicollet,	Mn.	13,873
Pleasant Valley,	Sherburn,	Mn.	13,880
Medo,	Blue Earth,	Mn.	12,556
Union,	Ada,	Idaho,	special
Ohio Hamilton,	Nye,	Nev.	11,698
Fort Reute,	Beauregard,	La.	11,698
Mitchener's Store,	Johnston,	N. C.	5,900
Providence Centre,	Lucas,	Ohio,	special
Fullerton,	Lucas,	Ohio,	special
Gallia,	Gallia,	Ohio,	special
Said Fork,	Saragosa,	N. Y.	9,242
Millon Centre,	Yardon,	Ohio,	special
Timber Run,	Muskingum,	Ohio,	9,164
East Masonville,	Delaware,	N. Y.	1,467
Elmwood,	West Chester,	Pa.	special
Mudcock,	Warren,	Ohio,	special
Highland,	Highland,	Pa.	special
Pryor,	Coshocton,	Pa.	9,038
Quebec,	Quebec,	N. Y.	12,686
St. Joseph Mich.,	Sanica,	Mich.	12,673
Five Hill,	Shullvan,	N. Y.	1,461
Beaver Brook,	Muskegon,	Mich.	1

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. VI, No. 10.

N. Y. YORK, JULY, 1866.

WHOLE No. 70.

The New Postal Law.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, TOGETHER WITH INSTRUCTIONS FURNISHED THROUGH BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF POSTMASTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, prepaid and free letters shall be forwarded, at the request of the party addressed, from one post office to another without additional postage charge; and returned dead letters shall be restored to the writers thereof free of postage.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the tenth section of the act entitled "An act to establish salaries for postmasters, and for other purposes," approved July 1st, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and so much of the twenty-eighth section of the act entitled "An act to amend the laws relating to the Post Office Department," approved March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, as requires postage to be charged at the prepaid rate, to be collected on the return delivery of letters indorsed with a request for their return to the writers, be, and the same are hereby, repeated; and all letters bearing such indorsement shall hereafter be returned to the writers thereof without additional postage charge.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the third section of the act entitled "An act to establish a postal money order system," approved May seven, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to authorize the issuing of a money order for any sum not to exceed fifty dollars, and that the charge or fee for an order for a sum not exceeding twenty dollars shall be ten cents; for an order exceeding twenty dollars shall be twenty-five cents.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That a money order shall be valid and payable when presented to the deputy postmaster on whom it is drawn within one year after its date, but for no longer period; and in case of a loss of a money order a duplicate thereof shall be issued without charge, on the application of the remitter or payee, who shall make the required proofs; and postmasters at all money order offices are hereby authorized and required to administer to the applicant or applicants in such cases the required oath or affirmation free of charge.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That all railroad companies carrying the mails of the United States shall convey without extra charge, by any train which they may run over their roads, all such printed matter as the Postmaster General shall from time to time direct to be transported thereon with the persons in charge of the mails designated by the Post Office Department for that purpose.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall wilfully and maliciously injure, defame, or destroy any mailable matter deposited in any letter-box, pillar-box, or other receiving boxes established by authority of the Postmaster General of the United States for the safe deposit of matter for the mails or for delivery, or shall wilfully aid and assist in injuring such mailable matter so deposited as aforesaid, every such offender, being thereof duly convicted, shall, for every such offence, be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not more than three years, at the discretion of the court.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That whenever it shall become expedient in the opinion of the Postmaster General, to substitute a different kind of postage stamps for those now in use, he shall be, and is hereby, authorized to modify the existing contract for the manufacture of postage stamps so as to allow to the contractors a sum sufficient to cover the increased expenses, if any, of manufacturing the stamps so substituted.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That section two of the act entitled "An act to establish salaries for postmasters, and for other purposes," approved July one, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, be amended by adding the following: Provided, That when the quarterly returns of any postmaster of the third, fourth, or fifth class show that the salary allowed is ten per centum less than it would be on the basis of commissions under the act of eighteen hundred and fifty-four, being compensation, then the Postmaster General shall revise and readjust under the provisions of said section.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That whenever the Postmaster General shall require special agents of the Post Office Department to collect or disburse the public moneys accruing from postage such special agents or agents, when so employed, shall, prior to entering upon such duty, give bond in such sum, in such form, and with such security, as the Postmaster General may approve.

Approved, June 12, 1866.

Sections 1 and 2 of the foregoing act make important changes in existing laws and regulations, and greatly simplify the work of mailing and delivering letters.

No postage is to be charged on letters forwarded from one office to another, or on dead letters returned to the writers, and consequently, no account of them is to be kept. Articles 4 and 11 in the account current will in future be useless.

"Request Letters" (described in the regulations of 1865, sections 394 to 399) are also to be restored to the writers free of postage. No account of them is to be taken in post bills or mails sent.

Postmasters are expected by all means to encourage the endorsement of requests for the return to the writers of undelivered letters, so as to reduce the number of dead letters. Any postmaster sending such letters to this Department, regardless of the request, will subject himself to severe censure.

The section limiting the amount for which a Money Order may be drawn has been so amended as to authorize the issuing of Money Orders for any sum not to exceed fifty dollars, and that

the charge or fee for an order not exceeding twenty dollars shall be ten cents, and for an order for more than twenty and not exceeding fifty dollars, twenty-five cents.

Postmasters are hereby instructed, that when the sum to be remitted in favor of the same payee, and payable at the same office, is more than twenty dollars, and not exceeding fifty dollars, to issue but one order therefor. A violation of this rule will be regarded as a fraud upon the revenue of the Department.

A Money Order issued on and after the 2d of July, 1866, shall be valid, and payable when presented to the postmaster on whom it is drawn within one year after its date, but for no longer period.

In case of the loss of a Money Order, a duplicate thereof shall be issued without charge, on the application of the remitter or payee, who shall make the required proofs; and postmasters at all Money Order offices are hereby authorized and required to administer to the applicant or applicants in such cases the required oath or affirmation free of charge. The revenue stamp of five cents will, however, be required.

Any postmaster claiming a readjustment of salary under the 8th section of the new law, must make to the First Assistant Postmaster General, under oath, a special exhibit of the whole amount of stamps canceled—that is, the amount of postage prepaid by stamps on letters originally mailed at his office during a period of not less than two quarters—also a statement of other items of postage on which commissions were estimated under the act of 1864.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS.

MONTHLY REGISTERS.

Sections 109 and 110, Post Office Regulations published 1866, page 20, having been rescinded by order of the Postmaster General, 16th of June, 1866, postmasters will in future return registers once a month only for all kinds of service, and report all failures or irregularities immediately by letter, with the cause thereof.

ADVERTISING LETTERS.

Sections 315 and 361 of the Post Office Regulations, published 1866, are modified, by order of the Postmaster General, so that from the 1st of October, 1866, the advertising of letters and newspapers is restricted to first-class offices.

At all other offices, after the date named above, postmasters must discontinue such advertising, and in place thereof post manuscript lists of unclaimed letters in a conspicuous place. These lists must be carefully corrected, so as to distinguish the letters delivered from those returned, and forwarded to the Dead Letter Office with returns of dead letters.

N. B.—Under no circumstances will allowances be made, after the 1st of October, 1866, to postmasters, other than at first-class offices, for advertising letters in newspapers.

REQUEST ENVELOPES.

Section 187 of the Post Office Regulations, published 1866, is so far modified as to allow postmasters to receive orders for envelopes bearing a business card, and request to return to a particular address, in quantities of 500 and upward, instead of 1,000, as heretofore.

WILLIAM DENNISON,

Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, July 1, 1866.

P. O. INQUIRIES.

Editor U. S. Mail:—I am postmaster in as snug a little place as there is in the United States. I close my office at 7 P. M., conforming therein to Section 27 of new regulations, which requires a P. O. to be kept open the usual hours of business. I try to make mine a "model office," hence sometimes after it is closed for the day, and the clerks have left, I sit down in my arm chair, elevate my feet supporting them on my desk, take my pipe, (I smoke sometimes, but not at improper times) and then think over the affairs of the day, to learn where there is room for improvement in the conduct of my office. I did this one evening not long since, I had that day received the June number of *The Mail*, and the article entitled "Mail and Female Losses" had made a deep impression on my mind, this impression was deepened by the fact that soon after reading the article, I was obliged to listen to a "complaint" in which the honesty and efficiency of myself, my clerks, and my "model office" were called in question in terms more forcible than convincing, a characteristic, I believe of most post office complaints. I may be getting a little garrulous, but I trust you will excuse this, seeing I am a trifle fussy in post office matters. Well, as I was proceeding to say, on this particular evening I thought I would sit awhile by myself, in my office, in the hope that, on the Homoeopathic principle, a cloud of smoke about my head would clear away the cloud of doubt within it. The Post Mistress's hands dived over my desk, and this evening I was so placed that I could look squarely at it. And by and by, as the smoke soared away from my lips into those beautiful spiral clouds so admired by smokers, I fell into a contemplative state of mind, with my eyes rested on the picture. What was there in it that soon gave my thoughts a practical turn, and set them to running along clearly and distinctly on the question that had so disturbed me, viz., "A post office deprecations," until they arrived at the "cause" of the "effect." That cause seemed to me twofold, "prying" curiosity, and an "inexhaustible" want of money; and first I reasoned on "Curiosity": for I had a representation of that fault before me. In my musings I could see the Inquisitive, longing look of some

postmaster or postmistress, or clerk, as he or she held up to view a letter, may be for Miss Susan Jones, the address written in a bold business hand. Ah! that is surely from the young merchant, who spent some weeks here last summer,—or may be the letter is one of those delicate little affairs, addressed in a tiny handwriting—very annoying, by the way, to postmasters—to Mr. Augustus Summons, our talented young lawyer, and that is doubtless from Miss Jones's cousin, who last winter set half the young fellows crazy; for who could talk and laugh and dance and sleigh-ride as she could—and merchants, who are thought to be tottering, must undergo examination. Ah! that lawyer-like hand looks like trouble, indeed. And so letter after letter must be subjected to "prying curiosity." But it is not alone that the addresses are studied, but each letter is turned and twisted and held to the light, and *spiced*, in the hope that some little word may be read. Nor are the surmises which are the result of all this examination retained, but they are retailed out, over the tea table, or the store counter, and galling strength as they go, reach the ears of the interested parties, greatly to their annoyance, if not their sorrow. Nor does this "prying" curiosity stop here—ah no; for now I see some silly clerk whose curiosity overcomes his integrity; he can open it and read it without its being discovered, but alas! what is that bright new glittering thing that meets his eye? What mean those figures 10 it bears in a serpent? It might well be, for it puts into his heart a serpent's thought. He is tempted and he yields, he picks up the envelope, examines again the address, tucks it into one pocket, crumpled bill of paper, and into another, the wily serpent; "no one will ever know what became of it nor what office it reached," is his thought, and soon the fire needs a stirring, or he must take a walk, and the crumpled paper disappears forever. The first step taken, I see many more, and follow them, I pass much sorrow and misery and want all traceable to this prying curiosity.

But Mr. Editor I have already made my letter so long, that I will defer to another time, how I reasoned on "inexhaustible want of money," and also some suggestions to those officials employed in handling mail matters.

Yours truly,
NICOTINES.

Another Bogus Special Agent.

One of those periodical nuisances, who from time to time manage to impose upon too credulous Postmasters and others in the falsely assumed character of Special Agents of the Post Office Department, has made his appearance at the West. Below we give some of the statements of the western press in regard to his operations.

PASS HIM AROUND.—We learn that a man named J. E. Vinton, is traveling through the country and representing himself as a Special Agent. In this way he has managed to get "dead headed" over steamboat and stage routes, and to have good authority for saying that the fellow is an impostor. At last accounts he was traveling through the Boise country. Our friends of the press will pass his name around, and thus warn stage men and postmasters against the impostor.—*Walla Walla Statesman*.

The sanctimonious cue passed through Boise City and has gone to Montana to play out his game. We heard of him down on the road toward Walla Walla, playing himself off for a Special Agent and Methodist preacher, calling upon "the brethren" at different places, and promising them each a Post Office, but were not then quite sure to "open him," and so waded for him to arrive in town. It appears now that he came to Boise City, thence on the Salt Lake route as far as Bear River, and thence into Montana Territory, passing free over the entire distance; paying few hotel bills, but borrowing money from postmasters and others on the route. It is estimated that the gross amount out of which he swindled mail contractors and others on the trip, falls little short of a thousand dollars. At Helena he was detected and exposed by Postal Agent Lawrence. Vinton was fortunate enough to escape being hanged by the people, but they notified him to leave the country immediately. At last advices he was seen passing out of the town, making most eloquent time on the back of a dilapidated mule. Pass him around.—*Dalles (Oregon) Daily Mountaineer*.

There is no necessity for Postmasters being deceived by impostors similar to the above. Every Special Agent of the Post Office Department is able (and should in all cases of doubt be required) to produce a commission signed by the Postmaster General and bearing the seal of the Department (an engraved copy of which will be found at the head of the first column of the second page of this paper). Postmasters, Mail Contractors or other persons who lend money to, or obey orders from unknown self-styled Special Agents who cannot produce such a document, do so at their own risk.

In addition to the above test, another quite as effectual will be found in the following order issued by the Postmaster General.

ORDER IN RELATION TO SPECIAL AGENTS' COMMISSIONS.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, March 21, 1866.

Ordered: All commissions of Special Agents of this Department held by persons other than

those named in the annexed list, of a date prior to the date hereof, are hereby cancelled and annulled; and no Railroad Company or other mail contractor in the United States will be required to recognize the same.

Such commissions as may be hereafter issued by the Postmaster General, or the Acting Postmaster General, will be respected and recognized by all mail contractors.

W. DENNISON,

Postmaster General.

LIST OF SPECIAL AGENTS.

David P. Parker, John Graham, Simon B. Row, James N. Tynes, A. B. Waller, W. A. Davis, C. F. Macdonald, S. H. Knapp, Alex. W. Randall, Charles H. Branscomb, William M. Dally, Z. W. Frazier, John Graham, Abel Humphrey, William F. Kimball, James J. Miller, S. Newton Pettis, Benjamin K. Sharratt, P. Van Vechten, Jr., Charles E. Wheeler, A. Jobe, Asa L. Harris, George W. McLellan.

Obituary.

Information has been received at the Post Office Department of the death, by an accident on the Reading Railroad, of Mr. THOMAS DORNAN, of Pottsville, Pa., one of the oldest contractors in the service of the Department. Mr. Dornan was a man of great perseverance and energy of character, which enabled him to overcome obstacles in the fulfillment of his obligations to the Department which would have been insuperable to most other men. This disposition was significantly displayed by him, some years ago, to the great advantage of the Department, by his undertaking, and successfully accomplishing, the difficult task of running an important mail in opposition to an influential and powerful railroad corporation with which the Department had a difficulty in regard to the rate of compensation. The company demanded what was deemed an exorbitant price for the service, and, with a view of forcing the acceptance of their terms, threw down the mails and refused to have anything to do with them. Mr. Dornan's offer of proposition to carry them over the route in coaches, and to deliver them in as good time as the railroad company had done. This proposition was accepted; and, for a reasonable compensation, he performed the service with such regularity and promptness as to convince the company that the Department was not to be forced into their terms for the want of competition on the route. They receded from their extravagant demands and agreed to convey the mails upon reasonable terms, deeming it more prudent to accept a smaller compensation for their services than to bear the discredit of having been successfully competed with, and sometimes actually beaten, by a stage driver. At the time of his death Mr. Dornan was the contractor for conveying the mails between the Post Office in Philadelphia and the several railroad stations in that city; and also upon several minor routes in the State of Pennsylvania. His death is a loss to the mail service.

Postman's Poetry.

In England, letters are carried in the rural districts by what are known as "country-walking postmen." One of them, Edward Capern, the "Wayside Post," who is mentioned in Eliza Burritt's recent work descriptive of a pedestrian journey through England, thus describes the joys of a carrier's life:

"O! the postman's is as blessed a life
As any one's, I trow,
If leaving the stile o'er many a mile
Can blessingness bestow.
"If tracing your way through a tangled wood,
Or dragging your limbs through a lawn;
If wading knee-deep through an angry flood,
Or a plough'd field newly sown,—
"If sweating big drops 'neath a burning sun,
And shivering 'mid sleet and snow;
If drenched to the skin with rain, be fan,
And can a joy bestow;

"If toiling away through a weary week,
(No six days work, but seven)
Without one holy hour to seek
A resting place in heaven;
"If hearing the bells ring Sabbath chimes,
Who bid us all repair
To church (as in the olden times)
And bend the knee in prayer;

"If in these balls he hears a voice—
'To thy delivery!
God says to every soul 'rejoice,'
But, postman, not to thee.

"Oh, the postman's is a blessed life!
And sighing heavily,
'Ha, ha, he'll say, alack-a-day!
Where's Britain's piety?'
"Heigho! I come and go
Through the muck and mire along;
Heigho! I come and go
Heavy at heart and weary O!

"Heigho! Heigho!
Does any one pray for the postman? No!
Not one, I no! I wish he were
Or he would not be robbed of his Sabbath so!"

It is gratifying to know that this poetical complaint led to an amelioration of his condition by his official superiors, who increased his pay of ten shillings and six-pence per week, and relieved him from his Sunday labors.

Registering Letters.

"It is of the utmost importance that postmasters should exercise the greatest care and diligence in the custody and despatch of registered letters."—*Instructions issued by Postmaster General with Act of March 3, 1863.*

[We have compiled from the regulations of the Department the following instructions in regard to the registration of letters. They are intended especially for the benefit of postmasters at the smaller offices, and include replies to many questions on this subject, which we are constantly receiving from our subscribers.]

REGISTERED LETTER BLANKS.—All the blanks which are required for use in the registration of letters can be obtained by addressing the Blank Agents of the Department, whose names and addresses will be found in another column.

REGISTRATION FEES.—The registration fee on all registered domestic letters is twenty cents, and the same on letters to Great Britain and Ireland, (in those to Canada, and to Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen or Hamburg line, or by Prussian closed mail, the fee is five cents. The prices mentioned above are the only foreign countries to which letters can be sent registered. The full postage on all registered letters, both foreign and domestic, must be prepaid by stamps.—(See last column of fourth page of this paper.)

RECEIVING LETTERS FOR REGISTRATION.—A sheet is furnished by the Blank Agents, on application by postmasters, on the right hand of which is printed the form of a "Registered Letter Receipt," in the center the "Return Registered Letter Receipt," and on the left hand the "Marginal Entry." When a letter is presented for registration, the postmaster should give to the depositor the registered letter receipt, (right hand), and receive thereon the registered number of the letter, the date of deposit, the name of his post office, the name and residence of the depositor, and the address of the letter. In the Return Registered Letter Receipt, (center) should be entered the same items, and also the name of the post office, (left hand). This letter is to be retained by the postmaster, and the return receipt disposed of as hereinafter directed. No entry of the sum said to be contained in the letter is required to, or should, be made.

PREPARING REGISTERED LETTERS FOR MAILING.—After the above directions have been followed, the postmaster will fill up a "Registered Letter Bill," which is printed on the back of the ordinary post-bills headed "Unpaid Letters." It is to be filled out to all small offices, entering therein the same items which are entered in the "Return Receipt," but being careful, when intending to forward the registered letter through the Post Office, to insert the name of that office instead of that of the office which the letter is intended finally to reach. (In all cases, however, the "Return Receipt" must be filled up with the name of the office of final destination.) The "Registered Letter Bill" and "Return Receipt" in the same manner; then enclose the letter, the "Registered Letter Bill" and the "Return Receipt" in a sealed envelope, marked "Reg." or "Registered," and addressed to the postmaster of the office to which the letter is intended to be sent. [N. B. The instruction printed on the present "Registered Letter Bills," to the effect that postmasters are "not required to put up registered letters in a separate envelope," is a misapprehension, and is rescinded by the Department, and all registered letters are now required to be so put up.] Then he will enclose it in a wrapper, marked with the name of the same office to which he has addressed the envelope in which he has placed the letter. The package should then be placed in the mail and sent forward—but should never be placed in a bundle of letters intended for distribution—as a registered letter is always intended to reach the office of whatever office it is sent to, and consequently is not, strictly speaking, a distribution letter, although it may be sent to a Distributing Office.

MAILING REGISTERED LETTERS.—It is advisable for postmasters, at all small offices, to mail such of their registered letters as are intended for delivery outside of their respective States, to the first Distributing Post Office on the route over which it is intended the letters shall pass—being careful to address the sealed envelope to the office of destination, to the postmaster of that office, and also marking the name of that office on the wrapper, and being sure that the "Registered Letter Bill" is also filled up with the name of that office. Registered letters sent through a Distributing Post Office, should be mailed and billed exactly the same as though they were intended for delivery there. It is only when registered letters are sent direct that the bill should be filled up with the name of the office of final destination.

THE "RETURN BILL."—This should be filled up exactly in the same manner, and bear the same date as the "Registered Letter Bill," but should be filled in the next morning, to reach the office after the one in which the letter it refers to was sent. It should be enclosed in an envelope addressed to the postmaster of the same office to which the letter was sent, whether for delivery or for distribution.

ACCOUNTS OF REGISTERED LETTERS.—"SHEETS" AND "RECEIPTS."—Separate blank sheets for these accounts are furnished by the Department, and may be procured by application to the different Blank Agents. On these are entered the dates of receiving (and sending) registered letters, the names of the offices to which the letters are sent (and from which they are received), the registered numbers of the letters, the names of the persons to whom they are addressed, and the amounts of the registry fees paid on them. These sheets will be retained by postmasters, copies being forwarded to the Department with the Quarterly Accounts.

DELIVERY OF REGISTERED LETTERS.—On receiving a registered letter for delivery, the postmaster should deliver it only to the person to whom it is addressed, or to some person whom he knows to be authorized to receive it, taking a receipt therefor, and also requiring the person to whom he delivers it to sign the "Return Receipt," which accompanies it. This "Return Receipt" he should then forward by first mail to the postmaster of the office at which the letter was originally mailed. When the "Return Bill" arrives, (which it should by next mail after the letter, (which it should be marked "correct," and signed by the postmaster, and then forwarded by first mail to the postmaster of the office at which it is dated, whether that be a Distributing Office or the one at which the letter was originally mailed. If, however, a "Return Bill" arrives, and the letter which it calls for has not been received, the "Return Bill" must be marked "not received," signed by the postmaster, and returned to the same manner.

FORWARDING REGISTERED LETTERS.—When a registered letter arrives, addressed to a person who has removed, or who for any other cause wishes it forwarded to him at another office, it may be done at the written request. The order to forward should be posted on the account of registered letters received, opposite the name of the person making the request. The letter should then be sent forward as a registered letter—in the same manner as if originally mailed as one; but no additional registry fee is to be charged on it. The order to forward must be filed in the office of forwarding, as a voucher for the action had in the case.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK. J. OATLER, Editor.

NEW YORK JULY, 1866

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Publisher U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, 1866.

Dear Sir,—I consider the U. S. MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to this Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and others, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time to J. Holbrook, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established. M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Oct. 13, 1865.

Dear Sir:—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the UNITED STATES MAIL and POST OFFICE ASSISTANT, as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal operations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department. W. DENNISON, Postmaster General.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding whole number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whose this number reaches, marked 69 or 70, will please remit at once.

Although it is our desire and endeavor that our paper should appear on the first of each month, yet it is sometimes, owing to various circumstances, impossible to secure that result. Important changes in the laws and regulations occasionally occur at such times as to require, for the benefit of our readers, that our issue should be postponed for a few days in order to enable us to file the details of such changes before them at as early a date as possible, instead of allowing a month to elapse before their publication. Our subscribers will therefore readily understand that a short delay in receiving their papers is sometimes unavoidable, and that when such delay occurs, it is the result of a desire to give them the advantage of the latest official information on the postal matters.

POSTAGE TO THE NETHERLANDS, IN BRITISH MAIL, VIA ENGLAND.—We are requested to state that hereafter the full postage to destination, upon letters transmitted, via England, between the United States and the Netherlands, may be pre-paid or not, at the option of the sender. The single rate, per half ounce or under, is 27 cents, prepayment optional.

POSTAGE TO THE DUTCH WEST INDIES BY FRENCH MAIL.—We are requested to state that, from the first of July, letters posted in the United States and addressed to the Dutch West Indies, (Curaçoa, Saba, St. Eustatius, and St. Martin,) may be transmitted to destination, via France, in the French Mail, at a postage charge of 33 cents for each single rate of one quarter ounce or under; prepayment being optional with the sender.

In answer to many inquiries from correspondents we have to say that the Bill lately introduced in Congress to prevent the commission of frauds through the mails, (such as bogus lottery and gift enterprise schemes) has not yet been passed.

[OFFICIAL.]

Below is a copy of an order of the Postmaster General, made June 15, 1866, rescinding the regulations requiring Postmasters to return weekly registers, where the service is six times a week, and monthly registers where the service is once a week or oftener, and directing them instead to return monthly registers only, for all kinds of service, and to report at once, by letter, all failures and irregularities of service as they occur. Hereafter, there will be but one form of register, (the monthly,) which will be furnished to all Postmasters upon application to the Contract Office, Inspection Division.

Ordered: That sections 109 and 110 of the Post Office Regulations (Ware's Edition, 1866), page 20, be rescinded, and the following adopted in lieu thereof, viz:

Postmasters will report immediately by letter, each failure to arrive, to depart, or to connect, entering it also in the proper place in the register, with the cause, and forward the register at the close of each month, (whether the service is six times a week, more or less) to the Inspection Division of the Contract Office, and be careful to retain a correct copy of the same. W. DENNISON, Postmaster General.

June 15, 1866.

[OFFICIAL.]

The following circular has been issued by the Department, and its instructions are designed chiefly to apply to route agents and others connected with the service in the Southern States:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CONTRACT OFFICE, Washington, 1866.

Sir,—You are instructed to observe the following rules, as far as they relate to your own official conduct, and so far as you may be able to enforce their observance upon all others to whom they are applicable, viz:

1. The mails of the United States must not be delivered at any Post Office or other place where there is not a regularly appointed postmaster duly commissioned, or other authorized agent, duly appointed and sworn, according to law, to receive them.
2. Persons not duly sworn and commissioned as postmasters must not cancel stamps, register letters, receive money in payment of postage on letters not stamped, or marked letters as "paid." Such persons must not sign, as postmasters, certificates or other communications addressed to, or intended for use in the Post Office Department.
3. Route agents and postmasters must return or refuse all letters marked "paid" by persons not duly sworn and commissioned as postmasters.

Respectfully, &c., GEO. WM. McLELLAN, Second Assistant Postmaster General.

Approved: W. DENNISON, Postmaster General.

Payment of Contractors—Important Decision.

The following is a copy of the decision of the Hon. James Speed, Attorney General of the U. S., in regard to the payment of contractors for services rendered prior to subscribing to the oath required by law.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, June 5, 1866.

Hon. Wm. DENNISON, Postmaster General.

Sir:—In your letter of the 21st of May you informed me that C. S. LeBaron has conveyed the mail on route No. 6584, running from Pensacola, Florida, to Pollard, Alabama, for the quarter ending March 31st, 1866. LeBaron did not take the oath prescribed by the act of March 3d 1863, 14th May 1866. Such being the facts, you desire to know, whether in my opinion, he can be paid for conveying the mail before he took the oath. The question may be best answered by dividing it thus: 1st. Are Contractors for carrying the mail required to take the oath prescribed in the act of the 3d of March 1863? 2d. If Contractors are required to take the oath, is it necessary that they should take it before discharging the duties or performing the service, in order to entitle them to pay?

As to the first: Looking through the Legislation of Congress from 1792, particularly to the Acts of 1792, 1810 and 1825, considering the opinion of Chief Justice Marshall in the case of the United States vs. Solomon Belew, (2d Brockenbrough's reports 280), and being informed of the fact that the Post Office Department has constantly, since the Contractors and Mail Carriers to take the oath prescribed in the Acts of 1810 and 1825, and seeing that Mail Contractors and Mail Carriers are as certainly embraced by the terms of the oath prescribed in the Act of 1863, as they were in the oath prescribed in preceding Acts, I cannot doubt but that Mail Contractors should be required to take the oath.

As to the second question: The Act of March 3, 1863, Section 2d, requires that the Postmaster General, all Postmasters and Special Agents, and all persons employed in the General Post Office, or in the care, custody and conveyance of the mails, hereafter appointed or employed, shall, previously to entering upon their duties assigned to them, or the execution of their trusts, and before they shall be entitled to receive any emoluments therefor, take the prescribed oath, and cause a certificate thereof to be filed in the General Post Office. It will be perceived, that it is made as much the duty of the Mail Contractors to take the oath, as for the Postmaster General or any other officers of the Department to do so.

There is no difference in this respect under the Act, between officers and employees, and Contractors. In one aspect of the case, and probably its chief aspect, the ability to take the oath, and the fact that the oath is taken, are made qualifications as well for employees and Contractors as for officers in the Post Office Department. It will hardly be contended that the regular officers of the Department could draw their salaries without taking the oath, and as the Act makes no distinction between officers and Contractors, I do not see why the oath is not also a condition precedent in the case of Contractors.

The duties of an office may be performed by one who is not qualified, and who cannot therefore receive the emoluments thereof. So a Contractor may render service for which he is not qualified, and for which he cannot therefore get his reward. Cases of individual hardship may occur under the statute, because parties are not diligent in learning what are the requirements of the law. The cause of such hardship cannot be said to be in the law, but in the party. I am of opinion that a Contractor for carrying the mail, cannot draw pay from the Department for services rendered or work done prior to his taking the oath, and therefore that you are not warranted by the law in paying LeBaron for services rendered prior to his taking the oath. JAMES SPEED, Attorney General.

Postage by British Mail via Marseilles.

In calculating the proper postage to be charged on letters to go by the above route, some of our readers have been rather puzzled, on consulting our Table of Foreign Postages, to find such apparent discrepancies as the following:

To Aden, (British Mail, via Marseilles) 39 cents for a letter not exceeding a quarter-ounce, and but 45 cents for a letter not exceeding a half ounce—being but six cents difference between two letters, one of which is double the weight of the other. In explanation, we will state that the postage on such letters is divided between the French and British offices—the French share, in the case given above, being 6 cents per quarter-ounce and the British share 33 cents for a half ounce (or less).—France rating by quarter ounces and Great Britain by half ounces (up to one ounce, after reaching which weight, in the case of letters going through England to other countries, a full ounce rate is charged on each ounce or frac-

tion of an ounce.) So a letter to Aden, for instance, sent by this route, and weighing one and a quarter ounces, should be charged \$1.32 for the British portion of the postage, and 30 cents (6 cents per quarter ounce) for the French portion—total, \$1.62. In some cases the French portion of the postage is greater. For these cases consult the paragraph headed "Rule of Rating Letters going via France," on last column of fourth page.

Post Office Visitors.

Some time since we published an article on Volunteer Post Office Clerks; and now propose a few words on Post Office Visitors. The Post Office Visitor differs from the Volunteer Clerk, in this, he does not assist in distributing a mail, a matter in which nine-tenths of them are ignorant, or have just knowledge enough to make their assistance a source of annoyance, if not loss to many persons, who may be anxiously expecting letters; and yet like the Volunteer Clerk, the Visitor has the happy faculty of getting very much in the way. In most instances he is to be found, or rather he selects the very spot where he ought not to be. Perhaps one reason of this is, that in all offices of moderate size, the multitudinous duties of a Post Office mail, during some portion of the day, at least, devolve on one clerk, generally on not more than two. If on one clerk, he may have to "tend delivery," sell stamps, listen to a complainant, register a letter, issue a money order, make up a mail, perhaps direct a letter, as the readiest means of getting rid of the person requesting it,—all in rapid succession, and to do all this he requires that his movements should not be unnecessarily impeded; so that there is in a Post Office very little room which is at the undisturbed service of a visitor, unless it be some lonesome nook or corner, which, possessed of none of the attractions of a Post Office, he is sure never to seek.

We have known two or three of these visitors hang around the letter-box and delivery window, engaged in conversation with the clerk, or the applicants for letters, and not even having the grace to move in order that access might be had to the letter box, closing up immediately the gap which a patient request has made of sufficient duration to enable the box to be emptied, and repeating this till the patient request became impatient, or was merged in a stern request to leave the way clear. Whereupon these visitors scatter like flies from a molasses cup and return quite as eagerly.

There seems to be a mysterious attraction about a post office; the public show a fondness for assembling even in the outer rooms, so to see and be seen, some in the hope, and a few in the expectation of receiving letters; nor is their conduct such as one would expect. Courteous well bred people have been known to depart from the courtesy that characterizes them, and to fall back to the first principles of every one for himself without regard to his neighbors. But we are not writing to improve the manners of the world at large, and only aim to improve the inner workings of our post offices, and bring them up to that high standard of efficiency which the age demands, we will bring our article to a close, with a few words of advice: we must condemn the practice of allowing too frequent visits or visitors to a post office. The safety of the mails, the proper putting up of mails, the sacred secrecy that should characterize correspondence, the reputation of the clerks, all demand that human visits should be like those of angels—short and far between.

CAUTION TO ROUTE AGENTS.—A short time ago one of the route agents on a railroad terminating at New York reported that he had found in a crevice in one of the boxes of his distributing case, two letters of an old date, which had accidentally slipped through and lain concealed there for some months. A careful examination of the car was made, and resulted in the finding of over forty letters which had fallen behind the sloping false bottoms of the boxes—some of them having remained there over a year. They had fallen through a space formed by the shrinking of the false bottoms and the backs of the boxes. Route agents would do well to overhaul their cars for these letter-traps.

Free Delivery of Letters.

The following is the Letter Carriers' free delivery report for May, 1866:

Delivered Letters.	Delivered News-Papers.	Delivered Newspapers.	
New York.....	894,138	355,296	117,373
Pittsburgh.....	43,487	174,262	692,319
Chicago.....	309,694	23,929	48,819
Boston.....	278,868	54,636	36,141
Philadelphia.....	181,819	14,233	47,296
Baltimore.....	181,819	14,233	47,296
Brooklyn.....	131,809	12,330	24,655
Cleveland.....	115,867	8,218	34,025
Washington.....	108,847	9,223	28,221
Cincinnati.....	106,540	13,461	17,655
Detroit.....	76,552	6,628	22,412
Pittsburgh.....	68,842	6,123	22,406
Newark.....	63,446	6,193	23,268
Utica.....	66,036	3,317	22,114
Albany.....	48,862	4,367	14,442
Milwaukee.....	47,763	3,848	14,647
Buffalo.....	46,404	6,228	19,909
Louisville.....	43,427	3,562	12,310
Syracuse.....	41,979	3,569	13,138
Providence.....	41,721	3,467	3,295
Rochester.....	34,662	2,676	9,763
Williamsburgh.....	32,149	912	6,892
Troy.....	32,652	2,555	9,624
Wilmington.....	27,790	1,472	6,142
Toledo.....	27,716	1,641	30,259
Charlestown.....	25,699	3,692	6,222
Lynn.....	25,329	702	6,541
New Haven.....	22,240	2,640	6,205
Lowell.....	21,962	629	2,136
Boxbury.....	20,716	1,328	7,066
Jersey City.....	20,441	1,099	4,238
Hartford.....	18,947	1,455	4,020

Answers to Correspondents.

Distributing Packages of Papers to Clubs.—H. P. R., B. C.—N. Y.—Postmasters are obliged to separate and deliver from a furnished list of names, all packages of papers on which the postage has been duly paid.

Postage on Foreign Papers.—A. Y.—N. Y.—There is a United States postage charge, of two cents for four ounces, on all foreign papers, even if the foreign postage is prepaid by stamp.

Wrapping Letters, and procuring Wrapping Papers.—F. J. B. C.—Mo.—1. The practice of wrapping letters has been discontinued only in offices supplied in whole or in part by "Railway Post Offices." 2. If your office yields a revenue of \$12.50 a quarter, you are entitled to wrapping paper, and the Blank Agent at Buffalo should furnish it on request.

Opening and Closing P. O.—E. H. F., A.—Ind.—The Regulations provide, that "a post office shall be kept open every day except Sunday, during the usual business hours in the place, and when the mail arrives on Sunday one hour or more, if the public convenience require it, after the arrival and assortment thereof, unless it be during the time of public worship."

Postage on papers from Nova Scotia, &c.—S. K. B., B.—Ill.—Domestic postage must be charged at the office of delivery, on all papers from places out of the United States. For time of opening and closing office see answer preceding.

Postage on Newspapers to Scotland.—A. S., C.—N. Y.—Only United States postage (the postage on Scotland and the other foreign countries, can be paid: besides this, another is charged on delivery. The charge of 10 shillings on the picture of General Grant was no doubt caused by the mode in which it was done up letter postage being charged. The United States has nothing to do with this charge however. All papers for foreign countries should be put up singly, and in narrow wrappers or bands.

Postage Notice to Publisher.—W. W. S., C.—C.—Ja., and H. O. N., D.—N. Y.—Notices to Publishers of refusal to take papers, should be enclosed in an official envelope to the Postmaster at the publishers place of business.

Internal Revenue Tax on Salary, Postage on Drop Letters.—C. C. S., West R.—Vt.—1. We cannot decide on your tax question, as we know none of the facts: write to the office who sent you the notice, for an explanation. 2. Postage on drop letters is one cent where there is not a free delivery.

Delivering Mails to Mail Carriers.—C. I. M., C.—O.—You should not deliver mails to a carrier, until he is ready to take proper charge of them, and leaving them in a Stable or Hotel is not, under ordinary circumstances proper charge.

Marking and Rating Stamps.—A. B., T.—Wis.—For these stamps apply to the appointment office, Washington, D. C.

P. O. Regulations and Money Orders.—L. E. J., C.—Ark.—1. You can obtain the new edition of Regulations by addressing the First Assistant Postmaster General, Washington D. C.—2. Certain offices, are designated by the Department as money order offices, and only such offices can draw or pay money orders. When an office is made a money order office, it is necessary to notify the public, and also instructed in the duties required of him furnished with blanks, and all matters necessary for the business. The printed instruction however can be found in the Nos. of the Mail for October and November 1864.

Money Order Offices.—H. M. O., L.—Ind.—We do not know that postmasters can do anything towards having their offices constituted Money Order Offices; a clear statement of the need and convenience of such an office to a large section of country, sent to the Superintendent M. O. Office Washington D. C. might result in their application considered, when a new selection is made. See preceding answer.

Closing the doors of a Post Office while opening a Mail.—H. D. C., S.—Minn.—You have a right to close the doors of your office, if necessary, while opening a mail. Postmasters should extend to the public all the courtesy compatible with a proper discharge of their duties; a like courtesy should, however, be extended to them, but closing the doors might subject orderly persons to much inconvenience while waiting, and therefore, to prevent disorder in an outer office, a little "law" is the better remedy.

Delivering Mail Muttter only to Person addressed.—W. B. C., F.—Iowa.—If a person gives you a general order not to deliver his mail matter to any one but himself, you are perfectly right in obeying that order, until it is countermanded, unless the party sends a special written order on which you should deliver his mail matter, and preserve the special order for reference. You did right in keeping cool; there is probably no position that so much calls for coolness and politeness as that of a Post Office Clerk.

Allowance for keeping Mail Registers.—F. W. D.—N. J.—Fifteen cents was allowed for each Monthly Mail Register under the old law of compensation: no such allowance is now made.

Post Offices in Bar Rooms.—H. K. H.—Ind.—We should say Post Offices should not be kept in bar rooms, store houses, or in any place to which it is unfit for a lady to go. The convenience of the public should be consulted in the location of a Post Office, not that of the Postmaster.

Mail Carrier Signing Receipts for Packages of Stamps.—J. E. S., O.—O.—Mail Carriers are not required to sign receipts for packages of Stamps, unless they pass through their hands out of a mail pouch.

Altering the Time of sending or receiving Mails.—J. E. S., O.—Such alteration can only be made by orders from the Contract Office, Washington, D. C.

Postage on Internal Revenue Reports.—S. W., A.—Ga., H. H., H.—Texas, and C. P., S.—N. Y.—Internal Revenue Reports, and all matters on Internal Revenue business containing writing, are chargeable with letter postage, unless addressed to Internal Revenue Offices having the franking privilege.

Cards and Circulars.—J. J. S., L.—Ky.—A "slip of paper 2 inches by 4" cannot, it clearly appears to us, be construed to be a "card" within the meaning of the law regulating the rate of postage on cards, circulars, &c. Such a slip of printed paper may be a hand bill or a circular, according to the nature of the matter printed thereon—but the word "cards" as used in the law, is evidently intended to mean what are technically known as such—as business, wedding, visiting, and playing cards, &c.

Time allowed for changing Mail.—P. M., O.—Ten—Seven minutes is the time allowed for changing a mail, but if with due diligence this time is not sufficient, a driver is not allowed to drive on without the mail.

Office of Fourth Class Sending Dead Letters to Dead Letter Office.—C. O. J., H.—N. Y.—The new regulations require offices where the salary is \$500 or more, to advertise once a week in newspapers, and to forward their Dead Letters weekly, about one month after they are advertised. See Additional Instructions, 1st page.

Disposing of old accounts, &c.—P. S., R.—Mich.—1. Accounts more than two years old may be sold and the amount credited to the Department. 2. If a letter arrives at your office addressed to a person whom you know resides in another place of similar name, you should not forward it, but you might address the Postmaster of that place, requesting him to inform the party that such a letter is in your office. 3. Do not see how a Justice of the Peace, or Notary can administer an oath to himself. 4. The new regulations are furnished to Postmasters, and charged in their accounts at two dollars a copy.

Enclosing Hand Bills in Newspapers.—S. J. B., S.—O.—Hand Bills or Circulars cannot be enclosed in county papers without subjecting the whole to letter postage.

Carrying Mails between Depot and Post Office.—C. C. B., W.—Ind.—Railroad and Steamboat contractors are obliged to deliver the mails if the Post Office is within 80 rods of a station or landing; the Railroad Company must deliver the mails at your office, if it is within that distance, at whatever cost, therefore you are not obliged to carry them unless you see fit.

Franking to a Member of Congress.—T. S., A.—O.—C. E. T. H. H.—N. Y.—Letters or papers on any business whatever, can be sent free to a Member of Congress.

Disposition of Newspapers Published in County, and not taken from the Office.—L. B., T. P.—N. J.—Such papers are to be sold and the proceeds credited to the Department.

Publishers of County Papers enclosing Circulars.—O. O., E.—N. Y.—In all cases where you had a circular enclosed in a regular paper, passing free through the mail, or delivered free from a Post Office, or charged with the regular quarterly postage, the whole package must be charged with letter postage. Where the paper is published in the same town, the Postmaster must either collect letter postage or refuse to deliver the papers.

Procuring order to receive Mails twice a day.—J. E. S., O.—You would have to procure an order. Write to the Contract Office, Washington, D. C.

Newspapers to News Dealers.—H. C. C., V.—Miss.—Your letter states the law correctly; "News dealers may pay the postage on their packages of newspapers and periodicals as received, at the same rates that actual subscribers thereto pay quarterly in advance."

Forwarding Letters.—W. L. H., P.—Me. C. R. G., Va.—See the new law on this subject, published in this number of the Mail.

Office Furniture, Marking Stamps, &c.—J. N. R., P.—City, Iowa.—A plain desk is allowed to all offices in which the net proceeds amount to at least five dollars a quarter. For permission to procure this desk, write to the First Assistant P. M. Gen., Washington, D. C.

Delivering Papers Published in the same Town.—H. J. B., A.—Ind.—As this question has occasioned much discussion, we give in full the decision of the Department: "It is no part of the duty of a postmaster to receive and deliver to subscribers any other newspapers than those which come in the mail. Through courtesy, sometimes a postmaster receives a few papers from the office of publication, and hands them to subscribers calling for them, without charge; but this even should not be done when it interferes with the legitimate business of his office. In other words, a postmaster is not required to receive newspapers printed in his town, and deliver them to subscribers; but should receive and deliver them, no charge can be made for so doing, unless in a large city where letter carriers are employed; then a contract should be made, under the 15th Section of Act of 1863."

Laws and Regulations.—L. E. J., C.—Ark., and others.—For laws, regulations, and instructions, apply to First Ass't P. M. General, Washington, D. C.

Letter Addresses.

Under guard of the "Hero" this paper please send. "Hicks is 'th' through and will closely attend." With "Uocle Sam's aid," it shall go safely there. By rail, boat, or stage, send to "A. King's" care; To North Stanford, Broome Co., N. Y., with due speed, For "Miss Mary King," to open and read.

To The President of the Great Union, Whitehouse, Washington, D. C.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of June, 1866:

Post Office.	County.	State.	Route.
Hughsville.	Warren.	N. J.	2,905
Harris Ferry.	Wood.	N. Va.	4,109
Wright.	Luzerne.	Pa.	2,372
Mill Run.	Fayette.	Pa.	2,289
Croze.	Indiana.	"	2,851
Atchison.	Washington.	Mo.	special
Walrus Creek.	Hartland.	Ky.	special
Brumfield Station.	Boyle.	Ky.	6,608
Ocean.	Alleghany.	Md.	special
West Leona.	Washington.	Pa.	2,421
Michener's Store.	Johnston.	N. C.	6,300
Providence Centre.	Lucas.	Ohio.	special
Fullerton.	Orange.	N. C.	1,460
Irving.	Jackson.	Wis.	13,191
Glen Hall.	Tippecanoe.	Ind.	9,344
Elkh.	Winnebago.	Ill.	11,547
Pepton.	Adams.	Ill.	11,824
Prairie Point.	Noxubee.	Miss.	7,420
Deer Lodge City.	Deer Lodge.	Mont.	16,240
McIntosh.	McIntosh.	Pa.	6,028
Black Foot City.	Deer Lodge.	"	16,626
Jefferon City.	Jefferson.	Mo.	16,626
Pearly Peak.	Jefferson.	Mo.	16,626
Jefferson Bridge.	Madison.	"	16,626
Sherridan.	"	"	14,223
Weiser Ranch.	Ada.	Idaho.	16,022
Log Town.	Owachita.	La.	8,852
Sell's Station.	Adams.	Pa.	2,541
Vine Valley.	Yates.	N. Y.	special
East Nichols.	Tioga.	"	16,626
Buckeye.	Summit.	Ohio.	special
Cora.	Oaklia.	"	9,272
Guyman.	Orange.	N. Y.	1,401
White's Station.	Shelby.	Tenn.	7,096
Lizet.	Wabash.	Ind.	12,265
Emmas.	Hartland.	Ky.	12,240
Hazel Glen.	Cook.	Ill.	11,806
Shelby Depot.	Shelby.	Tenn.	7,019
North Station.	Madison.	Mo.	16,626
Fort Mitchell.	Russell.	Ala.	6,406
San Charles.	Pueblo.	Col.	17,019
Christy.	Juro.	Cal.	16,409
Evans' Ranch.	Utah.	"	16,409
New Harmony.	Washington.	Utah.	special
Someret.	Monroe.	Mo.	

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

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WHOLE No. 71.

New Money-Order Post Offices.

We publish below a list of 293 Post Offices which have been designated by the Postmaster-General as Money-Order Offices from the 6th of August instant. These, added to the 473 offices which had been previously designated as such, make 766 Money-Order Offices now in operation:

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.
Mystic Bridge,	New London,	Connecticut.
Naugatuck,	New London,	"
Southern,	Fairfield,	"
West Winsted,	Litchfield,	"
Milford,	Kent,	Delaware.
Newark,	New Castle,	"
New Castle,	New Castle,	"
Suynra,	Kent,	"
Augusta,	Richmond,	Georgia.
Delvidere,	Home,	"
Hollandville,	McDonough,	Illinois.
Carrollton,	Greene,	"
Carthage,	Hancock,	"
Dumans Station,	Madison,	"
Patheild,	Waynes,	"
Havana,	Mason,	"
Hillsborough,	Franklin,	"
Jerseyville,	Jersey,	"
Kewanee,	Henry,	"
La Salle,	La Salle,	"
Lincoln,	Logan,	"
Marshall,	Clark,	"
Mattoon,	Oliver,	"
Menard,	La Salle,	"
Middleport,	Iroquois,	"
Monticello,	Franklin,	"
Monticello,	Franklin,	"
Morrison,	Whitesides,	"
Mount Carroll,	Carroll,	"
Mount Sterling,	Green,	"
Oquawka,	Henderson,	"
Pekin,	Tazewell,	"
Princeton,	Franklin,	"
Polo,	Ogle,	"
Sharda,	Randolph,	"
Tonica,	La Salle,	"
Toulon,	Stark,	"
Vandalia,	Fayette,	"
Winnington,	Waynes,	"
Woodstock,	McHenry,	"
Young America,	Warren,	"
Aurora,	Dearborn,	Indiana.
Bedford,	Lafayette,	"
Bowling Green,	Clay,	"
Columbia City,	Whitley,	"
Cornersville,	Fayette,	"
Dalphi,	Carroll,	"
Elkhart,	Elkhart,	"
Franklin,	Franklin,	"
Kendallville,	Noble,	"
Lebanon,	Boone,	"
Marion,	Marion,	"
Michigan City,	La Porte,	"
Mount Vernon,	Perry,	"
Noblesville,	Hamilton,	"
Perru,	Miami,	"
Rochester,	Fulton,	"
Rocky Hill,	Tazewell,	"
Shelbyville,	Shelby,	"
Sullivan,	Sullivan,	"
Verion,	Jennings,	"
Wayne,	Switzerland,	"
Washington,	Daviess,	"
Winchester,	Randolph,	"
Woodfield,	De Witt,	Iowa.
Chariton,	Lucas,	"
Decew,	Winnebago,	"
Edyville,	Edwards,	"
Elkador,	Clayton,	"
Fairfield,	Jefferson,	"
Fort Madison,	Lee,	"
Glenwood,	Mills,	"
Independence,	Buchanan,	"
Indianola,	Madison,	"
Keosauqua,	Van Buren,	"
Kaoville,	Marion,	"
Lansing,	Cass,	"
Lewis,	Clinton,	"
Mapleton,	Jackson,	"
Marion,	Linn,	"
Sugarcreek,	Keokuk,	"
Vinton,	Madison,	"
West Union,	Fayette,	"
Winterport,	Madison,	"
Yola,	Alton,	Kansas.
Leavenworth City,	Leavenworth,	"
Marysville,	Marshall,	"
Colombus,	Hickman,	Kentucky.
Henderson,	Madison,	"
Batavia,	Oxford,	Maine.
Duckport,	Hancock,	"
Fairbridge,	Fairbridge,	"
Gardner,	Kennebec,	"
Machias,	Washington,	"
Mechanic Falls,	Androscoggin,	"
Cambridge,	Dorchester,	Maryland.
Elkton,	Cecil,	"
Middleton,	Frederick,	"
Port Deposit,	Cecil,	"
Westminster,	Carroll,	Massachusetts.
Amherst,	Essex,	"
Cambridge,	Cambridge,	"
Charlestown,	Middlesex,	"
Clinton,	Essex,	"
Dedham,	Norfolk,	"
East Hampton,	Hampshire,	"
Great Barrington,	Berkshire,	"
Groton Junction,	Middlesex,	"
Haverhill,	Roxbury,	"
Nantucket,	Nantucket,	"
North Adams,	Berkshire,	"
Roxbury,	Norfolk,	"
Sandwich,	Hampshire,	"
Ware,	Franklin,	"
Webster,	Worcester,	"
Albion,	Calhoun,	Michigan.
Charlotte,	Easton,	"
Dowagiac,	Dowagiac,	"
Ionia,	Ionia,	"
Lapeer,	Lapeer,	"
Lexington,	Lexington,	"
Marquette,	Marquette,	"
Prescott,	Prescott,	"
St. Ignace,	St. Ignace,	"
St. Joseph,	Berrien,	Minnesota.
Ashtabula,	Ashtabula,	"
Chaska,	Fillmore,	"
Fort Ridgely,	Pierce,	"
Glenock,	Glenock,	"
Henderson,	Sibley,	"
Manningsville,	Hennepin,	"
Owatonna,	Owatonna,	"
St. Peter,	Niobe,	"
Wabasha,	Wabasha,	Missouri.
Boonville,	Cooper,	"
Cape Girardeau,	Cape Girardeau,	"
Hannibal,	Marion,	"
Lexington,	La Fayette,	"
Merced City,	Merced,	"
New Madrid,	New Madrid,	"
Rehoboth,	Fulton,	"
Springfield,	Springfield,	"
Waynesville,	Phisack,	Nevada.
Aurora,	Esmeralda,	"
Las Vegas,	Las Vegas,	"
Carson City,	Ormsby,	New Hampshire.
Franklin,	Merrimack,	"
Lancaster,	Lancaster,	"
Littleton,	Grafton,	"
Milford,	Hillsborough,	"
Peterborough,	Peterborough,	"
Raymond,	Grafton,	"
Atlantic City,	Atlantic,	New Jersey.
Bellefonte,	Warren,	"
Canada,	Canada,	"
Dover,	Morris,	"
Elizabeth,	Union,	"
Hackettstown,	Warren,	"
Hudson,	Hudson,	"
Keyport,	Monmouth,	"
Laurelville,	Greene,	"
Fourth Amboy,	Middlesex,	"
Rahway,	Union,	"
Vinceland,	Cumberland,	New York.
Amsterdam,	Montgomery,	"
Cape Vincent,	Jefferson,	"
Catskill,	Catskill,	"
Cazenovia,	Madison,	"
Coit Springs,	Putnam,	"
Danville,	Livingston,	"

Depot.	Delaware.	New York.
Elktonville,	Delaware,	"
Fort Edward,	Washington,	"
Fort Plain,	Montgomery,	"
Greenport,	Ontario,	"
Glens Falls,	Warren,	"
Gouverneur,	St. Lawrence,	"
Green Point,	King,	"
Hamilton,	Nadison,	"
Havana,	Schenectady,	"
Herkimer,	Herkimer,	"
Hornellville,	Moravia,	"
Janesville,	Ontario,	"
Johnstown,	Fulton,	"
Leedsburgh,	Seneca,	"
Madison,	Madison,	"
Middletown,	Orange,	"
Monticello,	Sullivan,	"
Niagara Falls,	Niagara,	"
Nivech,	Rensselaer,	"
Oneida,	Madison,	"
Potsdam,	St. Lawrence,	"
Rhinebeck,	Dutchess,	"
Rondout,	Ulster,	"
Rouse's Point,	Clinton,	"
Sag Harbor,	Suffolk,	"
Schenectady,	Schenectady,	"
Skaneateles,	Onondaga,	"
Stapleton,	Richmond,	"
Suspension Bridge,	Suspension Bridge,	"
Valatie,	Columbia,	"
Waverly,	Tioga,	"
Westfield,	Montgomery,	"
White Plains,	West Chester,	"
Williamsburgh,	West,	"
Ashtabula,	Ashtabula,	Ohio.
Ashtabula,	Ashtabula,	"
Barnesville,	Belmont,	"
Bowling Green,	Wood,	"
Cadiz,	Harrison,	"
Canton,	Stark,	"
Carrollton,	Carroll,	"
Chardon,	Chardon,	"
Coshocton,	Coshocton,	"
Cresskill,	Oranford,	"
Edon,	Edon,	"
Elyria,	Lorain,	"
Potter,	Seneca,	"
Richfield,	Richfield,	"
Phidson,	Summit,	"
Lebanon,	Warren,	"
Logan,	Hocking,	"
London,	Madison,	"
Madison City,	Lucas,	"
Milermarsh,	Holmes,	"
Mount Gilead,	Montgomery,	"
Napoleon,	Henry,	"
Olawa,	Putnam,	"
Onond,	Onond,	"
Plymouth,	Richland,	"
Pomeroy,	Meigs,	"
Sidney,	Sidney,	"
Springfield,	Clerk,	"
Troy,	Miami,	"
Upper Sandusky,	Seneca,	"
Washington, C. H.,	Fayette,	"
Wasson,	Fulton,	"
Wilmington,	Clinton,	"
Youngstown,	Jefferson,	Pennsylvania.
Brookville,	Fayette,	"
Butter,	Butter,	"
Clarton,	Clarton,	"
Columbia,	Lancaster,	"
Conyn,	Conyn,	"
Cowdresport,	Pottor,	"
Doylstown,	Bucks,	"
Easton,	Easton,	"
Gelystown,	Adams,	"
Greenville,	Mercur,	"
York,	York,	"
Huntingdon,	Huntingdon,	"
Indian,	Indiana,	"
Lawrence City,	Lawrence,	"
Middleton,	Dauphin,	"
Minersville,	Schuylkill,	"
Montrose,	Montgomery,	"
Murry,	Lycening,	"
New Brighton,	Beaver,	"
Northumberland,	Northumberland,	"
Oil City,	Yanango,	"
Phoenixville,	Chester,	"
Rhine City,	Yanango,	"
Ridgeway,	Elk,	"
Schu's Grove,	Snyder,	"
Somerot,	Somerot,	"
Stroudsburg,	Bradford,	"
Troy,	Union,	"
Uniontown,	Union,	"
Willsboro,	Willsboro,	Rhode Island.
East Greenwich,	Kent,	"
Pawtucket,	Pawtucket,	"
Bellevue Falls,	Bellevue Falls,	Vermont.
Derby Line,	Orleans,	"
Island Pond,	Essex,	"
Newbury,	Newbury,	"
Northfield,	Washington,	"
Waterbury,	Washington,	"
West Randolph,	Oran,	"
Appleton,	Ottogania,	Wisconsin.
Berlin,	Green Lake,	"
Granville,	Grant,	"
Juneau,	Juneau,	"
Madison,	Dodge,	"
Manie,	Manie,	"
Milton,	Beck,	"
Monroe,	Greau,	"
Murgen Bay,	Door,	"
Verona,	Verona,	"
Waupun,	Fond du Lac,	"
West Bend,	Washington,	"

mail swindlers. They were thereby deprived of the advantage of advertising themselves as box holders, which fact had hitherto acted as a sort of endorsement of their business standing, and a number of them made strenuous efforts to have the order rescinded, but without success. One of them—a fellow of infinite brass, who has carried on various swindling schemes under a variety of names—has resorted to an ingenious dodge to intercept the disastrous effect of this house-breaking in the camp of the Jersey Diddlers by issuing a circular, in which, among other lies, he pompously announces, in large type, that he has discontinued our box at the Post Office. He has the further impudence to advise his customers, in the same circular, never to remit by mail, but always by express—stigmatizing the Post Office as a "rotten concern," to which "it is unsafe to entrust letters of value. But the camp is careful not to send these circulars except to those who have already been foolish enough to remit money to him by mail, which of course he can safely pocket and credit to "loss" to the "rotten concern" aforesaid. He would only take the further precaution to enclose his photograph with the "circulars" he issues, that he would have no fear of any of his circulars (not directed to patients in lunatic asylums) eliciting a pecuniary reply, either by mail or express.

The comic papers have taken up the schemes of these rascals as a fitting theme for their comments, and one of them administers the following "first rate notice" in the shape of a burlesque "git enterprise" circular:

GRAND GIFT ENTERPRISE!

SPLENDID CHANGE TO MAKE A PERMANENT INVESTMENT.

ALL GUARANTEED PRIZES

Who Don't Draw Blanks.

The intense and overpowering benevolence displayed by certain philanthropic gentlemen of this city and elsewhere, as displayed in their eagerness to give everybody had all other persons the choice of numberless articles of immense value or the trifling gain of one dollar, has excited our bump of benevolence, and we propose to arrange a Gift Enterprise which shall eclipse all previous efforts of the kind. We propose to distribute the following (more or less) valuable gifts among the public, on a plan as simple and satisfactory. We shall print 100,000 "certificates" which we shall dispose of at the rate of 25 cents each; six for 15 cents; or 10 cents per hundred. Agents selling certificates will retain the whole amount, and will (perhaps) receive a liberal salary in addition. They will be required to accept a double-back-action-never-full-jeweled watch and diamond pin, which it is understood they will hang up in some public place, as samples of our goods.

Each certificate will name some article which the person can have by sending us one dollar. On receiving the money it is to be optional with us whether to send the article or not. This rule, adopted by nearly all gift concerns, was worked out entirely satisfactorily—to the promoters. All articles not proving exactly as we represent them may be returned to us (express charges paid) on payment of an additional fifty cents.

We are enabled to make these liberal engagements owing to the inflated currency, the panic in England, high rents and the extremely warm weather.

The following will give an idea of the style and desirableness of our articles:

[Here follows a cut representing a venerable and badly dilapidated watch.]

The above was the property of Sir Morton Peto. It had been a cherished relic of his grandfather. While in this country a transient pecuniary embarrassment induced him to have it with a benevolent relative in Chatham street. Circumstances beyond his control prevented his redeeming it. The winner of this prize will no doubt value it as a memorial of the great Sir M. Peto no less than for its intrinsic worth. Its casual arrival will be noticed by the most casual observer.

MONSIEUR TONSON AGAIN.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO.

The rumored approach of the cholera, which was positively expected in the early summer months, hurried me away from town, even here I had time to prepare for my usual annual tour; and gathering up a few imperative necessities, and stowing them away in bags and boxes, and arraying myself in my loose garments, covering my head with a new Panama, very high in the crown and very wide in the brim, and saddling my nose with a pair of blue dust goggles, I headed inconspicuously for the hills and valleys of the Adirondacks. I am free to confess to you that I was dreadfully afraid of becoming a victim to the fell epidemic, for I know how susceptible I am, and the idea of a man of my proportions going through a series of constrictions, contortions, contractions and convulsions, preparatory to a final collapse, was anything but pleasant, and I aver I lost no time in getting off.

As we whirled along beneath the shadows of the Green Mountains, and as we thundered along the skirts of old Champlain, I felt as if it was good for me to be there. The wholesome breezes from the hills and lake were so hincing and recuperating that I forgot all about the danger I had fled from, and felt almost disposed to throw a quart bottle of "cholera killer," which I had taken the precaution to provide myself with in case of emergency, from the car window. In fact, I felt elegant, and had just commenced chanting to myself that beautiful

ballad of my boyhood, "Believe me, if all those endearing young charms," &c., when I was interrupted by the ear-piercing shriek of our engine, and in a few moments we rolled into the depot, where we were to be transferred to other cars. Observing considerable commotion in the motley crowd which thronged the station, I inquired of a cadaverous-looking individual the cause of the excitement. Shoving his hat as far back on his head as it would go without falling off, and advancing his right leg with a sudden jerk as far forward as it would reach, he bent his neck down to get his mouth to my ear, and in a drawing, nasal tone, proceeded to inform me that thirteen car-loads of emigrants had been landed at some place in Canada by mistake, and that they were on their way to New York to take passage west on the line contracted with in Europe. He further went on to state that they had been there about four hours; there were a great many sick among them; a number had died, and more were dying; that the local medical opinion was that the prevailing disease was Asiatic cholera of the worst type! If some huge monster had risen out of the lake and had swallowed depot, cars, passengers and everything else except me, I could not have been more astounded. I made no reply, asked no further questions; but, turning my wings to my haste, I sought and soon found the train in which we were to proceed, and—breathed again when we started. But we had scarcely left the suburbs of the town when I experienced a peculiar twinge in my internal economy, and I felt, or imagined I felt, the various symptoms of incipient cholera as laid down in the books, and knowing that promptness was everything, I took my satchel from the rack overhead, drew from it and uncorked the sovereign remedy, which I felt rejoicing I had not thrown away, and without stopping to read the directions I poured down my throat heaven only knows how much of the unknown thing. And if I did I suffered for it; for I had scarcely taken the bottle from my lips when I was seized with such an intolerable heat that I expected to see the flames burst from every pore from my nose to my feet. O! the agony was awful! I could not restrain myself; and my fellow passengers, seeing my condition, self-convinced that I had either taken poison or was suffering from an attack of cholera, and of course a general commiseration was the result. At once I was approached by a representative of every nationality on earth, and the confusion of tongues out-habbled Babel. I was perfectly conscious, and warned the Samaritans back with my hand; but it availed little, and it took some time to convince them that I was suffering from an antidote instead of a poison. Indeed, I entirely failed to convince an elderly but diminutive Tonton, who insisted upon my loosing a "hint of blood," and having a "plaster but on my apotoman"—and the infernal Dutchman was so exceedingly demonstrative besides it required no little effort to keep his hands off me.

I got through with my torture after a while, however, and resumed my seat at the open window. I made up my mind that I had suffered more than my share, and mentally obfuscated patent medicine makers in general, and the one in this case in particular—after which a peaceful calm settled upon me, and would have abode with me to the end of my journey had I not observed three very small boys tugging at a mail bag which had just been thrown from the mail car attached to our train. I stepped on to the platform to witness the operation more fully; and I did. There stood the route agent in his car, looking as lazy and self-complacent as possible, while three little boys—not one of them, I verily believe, over ten years of age—were each striving to get possession of the mail bag for the purpose of carrying it to the neighboring Post Office—a reward, no doubt, of a penny, or a stick of candy, being the incentive which stimulated them. I asked the agent if it was not wrong to entrust the mail with these little ones, to which he replied that all he had to do was to throw it out—it was the duty of the station keeper to deliver it. Thereupon I took upon myself the responsibility of resorting to a little plain talk, the result of which I am sure will be that juvenile mail carriers will be interdicted in that locality hereafter. And just here I would ask, is a Postmaster or a route agent fit for his position who acts thus carelessly, and in such violation of the Department laws and instructions? I should say not. A tree or a tooth may be saved sometimes from decay by timely plugging or pruning; but when they cannot they are generally rooted out. I think that Postmasters or route agents, who can read their instructions, who have no more judgment than to entrust the carrying of the mails from Post Offices to mail cars and from mail cars to Post Offices to little children, should be served precisely as teeth and trees are when they are beyond salvation—they should be "rooted out." Selah!

In due time I reached my destination, and found myself in the very heart of the Fenian war councils. Arriving at the hotel I repaired at once to the room assigned to me, and forthwith began unpacking, preparatory to a display

of my skill in the woods and trout streams in the vicinity, which I was informed were unusually fruitful. Among my little fixings I had a peculiar shaped box, in which was carefully packed away a great variety of Conroy's "flies," and upon which was painted in bright colors the letters F. B. (fly box). This, with a Springfield rifle, a revolver, a hunting-knife, an opera-glass, a combined cane and umbrella, and an India-rubber cape with a hood to it, I had laid out upon a table when the bell rang for dinner. Without locking my door I descended to the dining-room, and leisurely enjoyed a capital dinner. When I had done I lit a cigar and stepped out on to the piazza to enjoy it. Pretty soon I observed a crowd collecting, and staring at me, (very respectfully, I admit), but it made me feel decidedly awkward, for I am modest, and I returned to my room and looked into the mirror, when it struck me at once that my old-fashioned garb had attracted the attention of these idlers. Stepping over to the table I found my fish box emptied and gone, and the flies scattered all over the floor. Says I to myself, "Who's been here since I've been gone?" I had little time to think, however, for a ball military chap rushed into my presence, and in a hasty but subdued voice said, "Old fel, I don't know who you are! I know you are one of us; but you've got to 'git up and git.' Uncle Sam's officers are down stairs, and have arrested all our leaders, and they'll be after you in a minute, so git up and git!" I was perfectly amazed, and before I had time to ask him what he was talking about, a very tall, thin man, and a very short, thick man entered, and clapping me one on each shoulder said: "You are a prisoner." This was the straw that broke the camel's back. I got mad—sorry to have to acknowledge such weakness—but I got very mad, and casting them off in a most theatrical manner, I took my rifle in one hand and my opera glass (I intended to seize my revolver in the other, and planting myself against the wall, had them stand back. "Approach," says I, in deep bass, "and you are dead men." Not a word spake they, but opening a passage between them, about a dozen soldiers, putting their guns in a horizontal position, approached their menacing bayonets so close to me that I called for a parley. I knew there were no high-waymen in United States uniform, and changed my opinion of my first visitors. Stepping on to the bed in my room, I asked the long and short gentlemen what this treatment meant. "Why, sir," said one of them, "you are arrested as a Fenian officer, and it will be necessary for you to go with us; we know you;" and as he said this he held up my empty fly box, and snubbing one eye, tapped with the end of his finger on the letters "F. B." Instantly the whole thing burst upon me—the initials on my innocent "Fly Box" had been mistaken for mystic symbols of the terrible Fenian Brotherhood—and it appeared so ludicrous that I laughed immoderately for some time. Feeling something sharp calling me to order, I looked round, quietly said "shoulder arms," and ceased.

An explanation soon followed, apologies were offered, a general friendship was formed, and we separated—I to prepare for my departure inland, and they to arrest transgressors, and convince Her Majesty's government that our neutrality law is not a dead letter. And talking about "dead letters" reminds me of a question or two. Is there not a great deal of carelessness and indifference manifested by post office people in regard to these same dead letters? I think it would be a good idea for some one (authorized, of course,) to go on a voyage of discovery. I may be in error, but I think a great many dead letters would be found stowed away in dusty desks, rusty boxes and forgotten out of the way places, where they have been put by ignorant, careless or designing persons. The anxiety and solicitude of the Department to these letters returned to the writers or addressees meets with little sympathy from some officials; and I hope if any such read this they will take a hint and put their houses in order, and be prepared to see "company."

Perhaps I ought to apologize for obtruding my personal sufferings on you. I didn't write you last month, and this is the apology.

MRS. TONSON.

MAIL FACILITIES IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS are still of a somewhat primitive order. Every Wednesday afternoon, it is said, a travel-worn pedestrian enters the village of Kawahae with his rubber-covered bag strapped securely to his back. This he has brought from Hilo, since Monday morning, and as the shade of evening cool the rocky hill sides he starts on his return, reaching the bay on Saturday night, an arrival which, in steamer times, is no less welcome than regular. This journey which, measured on the many curved roads up and down the sides of ravines, and including a detour into Waipio, must be not less than 160 miles in length, is performed in alternate weeks by two men who show great power of endurance. Sometimes, though rarely, a horse is brought into requisition.

A mutilated letter, mailed at Fort Erie, Canada, and addressed to a person at New Glasgow, Hecou County, was received at the Halifax Post Office. Upon the cover was written "this letter was damaged in this office by a bullet from a Fenian musket."



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860 By J. HOLBROOK. J. GAYLER, Editor.

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance. All communications to be addressed to the Publisher of the UNITED STATES MAIL, New York.

Subscriptions received at any Post office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to Publisher U. S. Mail, and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, October 25, 1867.

DEAR SIR—I consider it a U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant a valuable and meritorious publication, useful alike to the Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public. It is my wish to see it generally circulated among Postmasters and Assistants, and I shall with pleasure extend to you every proper facility for enlarging the sphere of its official usefulness, and the range of its circulation.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General, 10 J. HOLBROOK, Special Agent P. O. Department.

The following Official Order has also been made by the Postmaster General:

Ordered, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerk of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington, Oct. 12, 1867.

DEAR SIR—I have an honor in adding my ad- vices to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the "United States Mail and Post Office Assistant," as a medium of communicating current information to Postmasters and other respecting postal regulations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

W. HENNINGSON, Postmaster General, To J. GAYLER, Esq., Editor U. S. Mail.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

Each wrapper enclosing a copy of the Mail bears a number in addition to the address. This number signifies that the term for which the subscription is paid expires with the corresponding volume number of the paper. Subscribers will please take this as a notification to forward the subscription for another year, when due, if they intend to renew. Those whom this number reaches, marked 70 or 71, will please remit at once.

Change in Foreign Postage.

POSTAGE ON BOOKS, PAPERS, AND SAMPLES OF MERCHANDISE TO COUNTRIES ON THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA, VIA PANAMA.

An arrangement has been made with the British Post Office for the transmission of book packets and parcels containing samples of merchandise of no intrinsic value, in covers open at the ends and subject to the usual regulations, by the British mail packets, from Panama to any other port in the United States of Colombia, or to any port in Ecuador, Bolivia, Chili, or Peru, at the following rates of postage, (United States and British) prepayment required:

For a Book Packet not exceeding 4 ounces in weight, 10 cents. Above 4 oz., but not exceeding 8 oz., 20 " Above 8 oz., but not exceeding 12 oz., 30 " Above 12 oz., but not exceeding 1 lb., 40 " And so on, increasing 16 cents for each additional quarter pound, and 20 cents for each additional half pound or fractional part thereof.

For Samples of Merchandise not exceeding 4 ounces in weight, 8 cents. Above 4 oz., but not exceeding 8 oz., 16 " Above 8 oz., but not exceeding 12 oz., 30 " Above 12 oz., but not exceeding 1 lb., 40 " And so on, increasing 14 cents for each additional quarter pound, and 16 cents for each additional half pound or fractional part thereof.

New York and San Francisco are the United States offices of despatch.

RATES OF POSTAGE TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, VIA PANAMA.

A new line of mail packets, subsidized by the Government of New Zealand, to run between Panama and Wellington, New Zealand, with branches to Sydney and Melbourne, has been established, making monthly departures from Panama about the 24th of each month, on the arrival of the mails despatched from Southampton, England, by the West India packet of the 2d of each month.

Letters, newspapers, and book packets addressed to New Zealand and Australia may hereafter be forwarded to their destination by this route in the mails despatched from New York or from San Francisco to Panama at the following rates of postage, prepayment required: Letters, 22 cents per single rate of half ounce; newspapers, 6 cents each; books, 10 cents for each four ounces, or fraction thereof.

NEW MAIL-POUCH LABEL.—We have been shown by Mr. Leander Fox, Clerk in the Railway Post Office between New York and Washington, a sample of a new metallic Mail-Pouch Label of his invention, which appears to us to combine several advantages over any we have seen. One end of the label is securely fastened to a pivot attached to the pouch, and on each side is cut the name of the office from which the pouch is to be sent, and also that to which it is destined, the position of the names being reversed, thus, on one side "Washington, D. C. from New York City," on the other, "New York City (to) from Washington, D. C.," the "to" indicating the office to which the pouch was originally issued. By raising the label perpendicularly, it is turned on the pivot and reversed. The name is durable and entirely free from any liability to a detachment or alteration of the names of the offices between which they are intended to pass. We should be glad to see them put into use by the Department.

Resignation of Hon. William Dennison.

On the 12th ultimo, Hon. Wm. Dennison resigned the office of Postmaster General, which he had held since September, 1864. The reasons which led to his resignation were of an entirely political nature: feeling that his views of public policy were at variance with those of the President, he could not, of course, consistently remain a member of his Cabinet, and therefore was obliged to terminate his connection with the Department. During his term of office Governor Dennison enjoyed, as he deserved, the respect and esteem of all who were brought into official contact with him, and we believe his administration of the important interest under his charge as Postmaster General has been eminently satisfactory to the country. We do not remember to have read an unfavorable criticism of any one of his official acts. Within a few months from the commencement of his term the cessation of the war imposed upon the Department a vast increase of labor and responsibility in the reorganization of postal matters at the South—a task beset by peculiar difficulties, but which has nevertheless been performed with a success which, in view of those obstacles, may be called surprising. The extent and efficiency of the money order system have been increased, and the postal service generally has, under Governor Dennison's administration, been, as it should be, progressive.

Governor Dennison is succeeded in office by Hon. Alexander W. Randall, who, since October, 1862, has acted as First Assistant Postmaster General, and who, consequently, possesses the great advantage of experience in postal matters. Governor Randall is a native of central New York, from whence, several years since, he removed to Wisconsin, where he entered upon the practice of the law. He soon became prominent in his profession, and was long called from the bar to the bench, occupying the position of Circuit Judge, which he filled with ability until nominated for the Chief Magistracy of the State, to which office he was twice elected. During the first administration of the late President Lincoln he was appointed United States Minister to Rome, where he remained for more than a year, representing his government at the Papal Court with entire satisfaction. On his return he was selected for the important post of First Assistant Postmaster General, succeeding the Hon. John A. Kasson, who about that time was elected a member of Congress from Iowa. From the manner in which he has discharged his duties in other branches of the public service, together with the knowledge of the practical workings of the Post Office Department acquired by him as First Assistant, it is safe to predict that the new head of the Department will be found an able, energetic and faithful officer.

The New First Assistant.

On the 27th instant the President nominated to the Senate, as First Assistant Postmaster General, ST. JOHN B. L. SKINNER, Esq., to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Gov. Randall as Postmaster General, which nomination was immediately confirmed. General Skinner has for many years past filled the post of Chief Clerk in the Appointment Office most acceptably and faithfully, and it would have been difficult to find a gentleman better qualified for the office to which he has been promoted. He is thoroughly conversant with every detail of post office business, and with all decisions and precedents in regard to the Laws and Regulations governing the operations of the Department—a qualification invaluable to one in his present position. He will prove an efficient, thorough working First Assistant, and we are glad to congratulate him, as well as the Department and the public, on his appointment.

Returning Letters Deposited in Post Offices.

Sections 64 and 65, as printed in the Regulations of 1866, read as follows:

SEC. 64.—To prevent fraud, the postmaster will never return any letter put into his office for transmission by mail, to any person whatever.

SEC. 65.—To enable him to know that the person applying for the return of a letter is the writer, he may require him, or his messenger, to exhibit to him the same superscription and seal that are upon the letter. And if the postmaster is satisfied that the handwriting and seal are the same, he will return the letter, taking a receipt, and preserving it with the paper containing the superscription, and the order, if one were sent.

It will be seen that the above two sections—the first forbidding the return of a letter "to any person whatever," and the second authorizing such return under certain precautionary conditions—directly contradict each other. This fact has naturally led to some confusion in the minds of postmasters as to what is their duty in such cases. We are authorized to say that the apparent discrepancy between the two sections arose from the accidental omission in the printed Regulations of the words "EXCEPT THE WRITER THEREOF," from the end of Section 65. That section is therefore to be considered as being in force in the following form:

"SEC. 64.—To prevent fraud, the postmaster will never return any letter put into his office for transmission by mail, to any person whatever, except the writer thereof."

As thus amended, there is no conflict between the two sections mentioned. A delivery to a "messenger" duly authorized by the writer, referred to in Section 65, is, of course, a legal delivery to the writer himself.

MARSHALL SMITH, Esq., late Assistant Postmaster at St. Louis, Mo., has been appointed a Special Agent of the Post Office Department, with authority to introduce, upon such routes as he may deem proper, the use of the mail boxes invented by him, (which we have several times noticed,) in place of the present postboxes. These boxes have been for a long time in use between New York and St. Louis, and recently

between New York and Boston, and have given great satisfaction. The Department has concluded a contract for the manufacture of a large number of these boxes.

Wise Prophecies.

Mr. Edmund Yates, who, as well as several other eminent literary men, is officially connected with the British Post Office Department, in a recently published caustic letter, "reviewing the reviewers," quotes, for their confusion, from certain old copies of the *London Quarterly Review*, diverse unfulfilled predictions of the speedy decay of the fame of such writers as Dickens, Tennyson, &c. In the course of his remarks he encountered some profound prophecies concerning postal matters. In view of the present facts, this twaddle of a past age is pretty good reading:

"While I am on this subject I cannot refrain from giving a specimen of the amount of general correspondence, and nowhere we believe, so much as is in letters of friendship among the middle and lower classes, a great advantage a great increase to individual happiness, and in some cases perhaps a preservative from evil by maintaining the family tie; but even this advantage will not be unimpaired. Will clerks write only to their fathers, or girls to their mothers? Will not letters of romance or love, intrigue or mischief increase in at least equal proportion? Does any natural mind doubt that there will be on this point of the question a balance of good and evil? And even admitting what it would be hard to prove, that there should be a preponderance of good, can it be shown that the preponderance shall be so great as to compensate the other, as we think inevitable disadvantages?"

Additional Money Order Offices.

On our first page will be found a list of 293 newly established Money Order Post Offices. This large increase is a gratifying evidence of the progress in efficiency and in public favor and confidence of this admirable system, and there is no doubt that it will ere long be still further extended until its benefits are made available to all who may have occasion for the remittance of small sums by mail. It is very likely that its operations at some offices where it is already established could be greatly increased, if the Postmasters at those offices would take a little more pains in explaining its workings and advantages to the public, who should be urged to avail themselves of it whenever desirous of making a remittance. There are, to our knowledge, intelligent persons residing within the delivery of money order offices who are not even aware of the existence of the system. They should no longer be permitted to remain in this state of ignorance if in the Postmaster's power to prevent it. Most Postmasters are able, through the exercise of a little influence with their local newspapers, to ensure that publicity shall be given to the existence of so great a social convenience, and they should do so by that and all other means, both for their own interests and those of the Department and the public.

To those Postmasters at the newly established money order offices we need scarcely say that careful study and strict observance on their part of the Regulations governing the system are essential to its success, and will be rigidly required by the Department.

MONEY-ORDERS.—A MISUNDERSTANDING.—In the instructions under the new Postal Law published in our last, the following, in relation to the issuing of money-orders, occurs:

Postmasters are hereby instructed, that when the sum to be remitted in favor of the same payee, and payable at the same office, is more than twenty dollars, and not exceeding fifty dollars, to issue but one order therefor. A violation of this rule will be regarded as a fraud upon the revenue of the Department.

Some postmasters at money-order offices have misconstrued this instruction, and have refused to pay two or more orders issued on the same day, and in favor of the same payee, when the sum desired to be remitted was over fifty dollars. This is a mistake. A careful reading of the instruction will show that it is designed solely to prevent the multiplication of orders for sums which should be put into a single order. For instance, if a person desires to remit forty dollars, he cannot obtain two orders of twenty dollars each, but must obtain a single order for the amount; but he desires to remit sixty dollars, he can obtain one order for fifty dollars and another for ten, &c. He cannot obtain three orders for twenty dollars each, for the reason that two of those orders would amount to over twenty dollars and less than fifty, and the issuing of two such orders is forbidden. The reason for this restriction is that in its absence a fraud upon the revenue of the Department might be committed by parties who could, by obtaining two or more orders instead of one, avoid the full payment of the fee chargeable on the amount they desire to remit. Postmasters at money-order offices will consult on this point Section 13, page 12, of the money-order instructions, issued in pamphlet form by the Department, July 2, 1866.

Answers to Correspondents.

Postage on Monthly Publications.—R. K. S., M. C. H.—If the pamphlet to which you refer is issued as a monthly, though occasionally the numbers for two months are combined in one, you should charge the regular monthly postage.

Keeping Account of Stamps Canceled, &c.—J. W., C. H.—N. C.—The account of stamps canceled was to be kept only for the quarter ended June 30, 1866. Letter postage is to be charged and collected on any newspaper or periodical so marked or written upon as to give any other information than that contained in the print. The same charge will be made where it is so enclosed that it cannot be examined without destroying the wrapper. But in the case of publications from publishers to regular subscribers, publishers may print on the wrapper the name and address of the subscriber, and the date when the subscription will expire, and may also enclose in their publications the bills for subscription. A wrapper on a transient newspaper, having on it the name of the sender, conveys information, and hence subjects the package to letter postage.

Postage on Small Religious Papers Published Weekly.—D. C. P., T., Wis.—All papers published weekly are subject to the regular quarterly rates of postage as weekly papers.

Postage on Artificial Flowers.—C. R. V., A.—N. H.—Artificial flowers should be charged with letter postage. Section 34, of Act of March 3, 1864, refers only to postage on "mailable matter," Section 20, of same act, describes "mailable matter," while Section 25, estimates the rate of postage on all matter not "mailable," in which class artificial flowers must be included.

Unpaid Transit Matter.—E. M. D., P.—N. J.—Unpaid transient matter should be charged on delivery at prepaid rates. The law making the change was passed May 1, 1865.

Delivery of Newspapers Published in Towns Having Free Delivery.—A. K., C.—You are not required to deliver newspapers published in the same town or village in which your office is located. But you may contract with publishers to deliver their papers by carriers. Such contract, however, must be submitted to the Postmaster General for approval.

Postage on Papers to a Subscriber who has Removed.—F. B., East G.—Ind.—Give the subscriber a receipt for the postage, as evidence of payment, and tell him to have the post office address of his paper changed.

Retaining Commission for Delivering County Papers to Subscribers.—W. R., S.—Ill.—All postmasters are now paid by a fixed salary, and are not allowed commissions, except for money order business.

Persons in a Vehicle Demanding Mail Matter to be brought to them.—T. W. H., P.—Conn.—The proper place to ask for mail matter is at the delivery window or counter of the post office, and no one has a right to demand its delivery anywhere else. If a postmaster chooses to carry it to a person sitting in a wagon or other vehicle he can do so as a matter of courtesy, providing it does not interfere with the duties of his office. Duty and courtesy should be the aim of all postmasters.

Paying Mail Carrier, &c.—C. H. M., G.—Vt.—Drafts on postmasters, and payable to mail carriers, are generally for the whole amount due the Department, and a mail carrier cannot demand more; and of course he cannot if the draft is for a specific sum. Postmasters must pay postage on "The Mail."

Allowance for Clerk Hire, &c. in Offices of the Third and Fourth Classes.—W. E. H., H.—Vt.—The Postmaster General is authorized to make allowances, in his discretion, for expenses in offices of the third and fourth classes; and also to furnish them with printed envelopes. See Sections 17, 18, 19, of Regulations of 1866.

Carelessness in putting up Mails.—H. W. R., J.—Vt.—Report carelessness by postmasters to the Appointment Office, Washington, D. C.

Sending Package of Letters to another Post Office to be Mailed as "Drops."—J. C. N., C.—Mass.—The case you state is clearly a violation of the law. See Section 40 and Chapter V. of new Regulations.

Payment of Drafts for Balances Due the Department.—C. S. R., S.—Ill.—You will have to take, or send at your own risk, to the postmaster having the draft on you, the money to pay it.

Postage to British Columbia.—J. L. W., O.—N. Y.—There is at present no postal communication between the United States and British Columbia. All mail matter for the latter place is sent to San Francisco and forwarded thence by express; hence only United States postage can be paid at the mailing office, the express charges being collected on delivery.

Insufficiently Prepaid Letters from Canada, &c.—C. H. A., U. S.—N. Y.—Part payments to and from Canada are not recognized. A letter, therefore, insufficiently prepaid, must be treated as if wholly unpaid, and the full postage collected, and the amount placed in your account of undercharges. 2. If you desire such a marking stamp you will have to provide it at your own expense.

Time of Keeping Office Open.—W. H. H., M.—Ill.—The Regulations require that a post office should be kept open every day except Sunday the usual hours of business in the place, and when the mail arrives on Sunday, one hour or more on that day, if the public convenience require it, after the arrival and assortment thereof, unless it be during the time of public worship.

Delivery of Mails by Contractor.—T. C. M., S., B.—O.—Railroad and steamboat contractors are required to deliver the mails at all offices within a quarter of a mile of their depots, stations or landings, as well as at the terminal offices of their routes.

The Charge for the New Edition of the Regulations.—R. C. B., Mich.—When you refer to your office and its appurtenances to your successor you will, doubtless, be allowed credit for the \$2 which you now pay for the Regulations.

Franking Privilege of Assistant Paymaster General.—N. H. J., West L.—O.—Assistant Paymasters General have not the franking privilege, but like every one else they may send mail matter free to the Paymaster General or any other person authorized to frank, subject to certain restrictions, for which see Section 265 A, of Laws.

Wrapping Single Letters.—A. F. S., N. S.—Ind.—The Regulations require that letters should be wrapped at all offices not supplied in whole or in part by railway post office.

Newspapers Chargeable with Letter Postage.—A. G. M., F., Ill.—To enclose or conceal a letter, or other thing (except bills and receipts for subscription) in, or to write or print anything after its publication upon any newspaper, &c., is illegal, and subjects it to letter postage, and to a fine of five dollars, except it is done in order that it may be carried free of postage.

Connecting Mail Route.—W. F. C., L.—Tenn.—Write a statement of the facts to the Contract Office, Washington, D. C.

Marriage of Postmistress, &c.—E. F. G., M.—Ga.—I. As married women are incapable of holding the office of postmaster, it follows that a female postmaster would have to resign her office if she married. 2. An assistant postmaster is not entitled by postal law to any portion of the salary of a postmaster.

Letters from other Offices with Stamps not Canceled.—A. P., East W.—Me.—Section 177, of new Regulations, directs that if the cancelling of stamps has been omitted at the mailing office, the postmaster at the office of delivery shall do so, and forthwith report the delinquent postmaster to the Postmaster General, as the law requires.

Postage on Half Yearly Periodicals.—H. W. S., V.—Ind.—The law provides that the postage on periodicals to regular subscribers, issued less frequently than once a week, shall be one cent for each copy not exceeding four ounces in weight, and an additional rate of one cent for each additional four ounces, to be prepaid at either mailing or receiving office. Under this law the postage on a twenty ounce semi-annual periodical would be five cents for each copy; but this cannot be prepaid by stamps, but must be paid in money. If the publisher uses stamps in prepayment, he must prepay at transient rates—ten cents on such a periodical as you describe. If the periodicals reach the office of delivery prepaid but five cents in stamps, the remaining five cents should be collected before delivery.

Time of Closing Office.—J. H. E., W.—Mass.—The regulations require that a post office should be kept open during "the usual hours of business" in the place. Those hours are generally well defined in every town, and the Postmaster must be guided by his knowledge of them.

Changing Mail.—G. W. H., P.—Iowa.—We cannot see any objection, under the circumstances, to your changing the mail in the manner proposed.

Forwarding Request Letters.—J. H. D., B.—Me.—You are required to forward request letters, when desired to do so by the party addressed, before the expiration of the time named in the "request."

Post Office Regulations.—F. B. K.—Miss.—A new edition of the Laws and Regulations has lately been published, which will be furnished to you on application to First Assistant Postmaster General, at a charge of two dollars.

Forwarding Letters Free.—J. L. B.—Ind.—The Law took effect July 2d.

Franking Letters to the Pay or the Pension Departments, &c.—1. Any one can send letters on official business free to the Pay or the Pension Departments. 2. It is sufficient to keep your office open on general holidays a convenient time on the arrival of the mails.

Payment of Balance Due the Department, &c.—E. W. S., R.—West Va.—1. You are required to hold all balances due the Department until a draft is made on you. (See our answer above) 2. At the time the Account Current was printed a discount of five per cent was allowed to purchasers of stamps to the amount of not less than one hundred dollars, or packages of envelopes of not less than five hundred. This provision was repealed. 3. If your office yields a gross revenue of over \$100 you can procure a marking stamp on application to the Appointment Office.

Marking Stamps, Balances, &c.—G. M. E., D.—Ill.—Marking stamps are furnished to offices where the gross receipts are over \$100, and letter balances to offices which collect in packages \$75 a year. You may write to the Appointment Office for twine apply to "Blank Agent at Buffalo, N. Y." Official envelopes are furnished only to offices of the first and second classes.

Postage on Newspapers to Canada.—E. H. S., D.—Pa.—Postage on newspapers to Canada is the same as on papers in the United States, viz., two cents for 4 oz. on transient, and the regular quarterly rates for regular papers; but this postage must be prepaid at the mailing office.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of June, 1866:

ESTABLISHED.

Table with 3 columns: Post Office, County, State. Lists new post offices established in June 1866 across various states including Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Discontinued.

Table with 3 columns: Post Office, County, State. Lists post offices discontinued in June 1866 across various states including Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Changes.

Table with 3 columns: Post Office, County, State. Lists changes to post office names in June 1866 across various states including Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

UNITED STATES MAIL

AND

POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

VOL. VI, No. 12.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1866.

WHOLE No. 72.

Curious Letters to Postmasters.

Postmasters, especially those at the larger offices, are sometimes the recipients of very odd letters, containing strange requests and revealing strange secrets. From among a number of such which have been sent to us we select a few, which there is no impropriety in publishing. The first is from a lady who seeks a more congenial mate than the one from whom she has been divorced. In order, however, to avoid exciting any false hopes in the breasts of our readers, we will state that the letter was written over two years ago, and that so energetic and sanguine a lady has, beyond all doubt, long since found the "one true soul to love" of which she was then in search:

Gentleman, Postmaster, Sir, you may wonder at this strange introduction but, did you know my true history you would not. I was married young against the wish of all my friends, for, at 20, years did not live but endured the time but did not live. I was true to my husband and he was every thing but that to me. I have 2, honest and pretty boys, when my proud spirit could have his treatment no longer and being weary of supporting my little family with my needle and seeing it vain to reform him I broke loose from the fetters that bound me. I was to independent to call on those that had forsaken me and knowing that Lawyer W. of P. was a Cousin of mine I found places for my sons and went to the City where he lived, there I found him. He treated me like a sister, told me I deserved what I came after. There in the B House for long months served for, Mrs. H. that once lived in your City until the kind Lawyer pronounced me free and independent he told me my business was done strong, and according to Law it could not be broken. I then returned home or rather back to this state, for I had no home, and there with the help of my kind neighbours have for 2 years fed and clothed my self and youngest son, the other is now able to take care of him self. I have found good home now for my little son in a dry Good store and an aw determined if there is one as true a heart and soul in this world as I am bound to say my own is, I will find him, and now stranger one favour I ask of you, if this is a free Country and I have as good a right to look for a child honest and true. Husband as you men have to look for a Wife, and I will stand or fall on my own independence. I want a home and one true soul to love. I do not wish to be supported a lady. If you will allow me to speak in my own phrase I am not ashamed to be seen in a Kitchen, and no one need be ashamed of me in a parlour. I have kept my self aloof from all men, and as I have said before if there is one true soul on earth with a little help I will find him. If you kind Sir know of a man that needs an honest true and faithful wife read this to him, and either you or him write to me. All I ask of him is to tell the truth, one half of the time stay at home, one half of the time provide what I want to eat. I will cook it, by his Cloth and I will make them. If you will take some trouble to find the man you shall be rewarded in heaven and on earth there is no person but my self shall know any thing about this letter neither can you know my right name unless you find the man. If you should do so and either you or him wishes to see me I will send you a perfect likeness of my self as soon as I receive answer to this, and if you are successful in if you undertake the task and he should wish to see me personally I will meet him any place he will mention this side of that City. Now if you wish to oblige one true woman please answer this, as soon as possible, for I don't intend to stay in this place more than (2) weeks. If you take the task upon yourself and don't succeed in (2) weeks then direct to B— County, to Mrs P T My age is (38) my height is (100). If you do not wish to assist me I am not one to despair at the first attempt I have plenty offers here but a true heart is what I want.

Here is one from an Othello, who hases jealousy of his Desdemona upon a rather singular foundation. How the proof or refutation of her statement that by a fall from the Post Office steps her nasal feature received a wound, can corroborate or disprove reports unfavorable to Mrs. J.'s "character" we are unable to conjecture. Still, there may be something in it—who nose? A handkerchief (the gift of an Egyptian to his mother, as Shakspearean readers will remember,) played a prominent part in the domestic difficulties of the unhappy Moor of Venice; and if a handkerchief, why not a nose?

June '66
Sir: Please to excuse the liberty I have taken of troubling you, but my Misery hath me my excuse. on the 22nd of May you delivered a registered letter to my Wife Mrs. J., and she sends me word that in coming down the Post Office steps she fell and cut her nose. If you could find from any of your employes wether that is true you would greatly oblige me as I have reasons to doubt it as I am sorry to say I have heard news very unfavorable to her character which I wish to be certain about in my own mind for I cannot think of it as it is represented until I have proof
Yours
Most Respectfully
C. T. J.

A French lady, desiring to have forwarded to another post office any letters which might have arrived for her at the New York office, makes the request in the following letter, which, as a specimen of French-English, it would be not very easy to surpass:

Sir,
Could you oblige me to do transmission at the Post-office of S—, letters with the Address M. A. R. 1832—, despatches of France, or Espagne at the post-office of New York. If this letters, very important from me, been not arrived to New York, I am requested you from take avis from this reclamation Sir, and to give

the commandment at your administration that this letters arrived had send at me from S—

My address,
Meme Amdlie A. R.,
post office, S—
I wish you a good morning.
Amdlie A R

If space could be spared, we would give several other samples of the same sort, but will postpone them to a more convenient season.

Monsieur Tonson Again.

BETWEEN BOSTON AND BUFFALO:

I spent two weeks in the woods and waters of Northern New York after my narrow escape from the horrid peace preservers, and met with the most extraordinary success: Fish, flesh and fowl yielded to my hooks and bullets every time, and my time as a sportsman stood high with the dwellers in tents and shanties among the sylvan shades of "John Brown's tract." Too much good luck, however, and a holy horror of mosquitoes and other members of the long-nosed fly family, entirely surfeited me, and I grew tired of the truly rural recreation, packed my traps, and prepared to travel towards the St. Lawrence river, to try my skill in the most dangerous game—a species of poker found only in that river or its tributaries, I believe, and varying in size from a shad to a shark. But my first care was to get out of the woods, and as the primitive two wheeled vehicle which conveyed me thither had dropped me, and gone, the Lord knows where, I was under the dire necessity of chartering a horse and hiring a guide to accomplish my purpose. Now, I wish you to understand distinctly that I do not affect equestrian exercise, and under ordinary circumstances I would sooner travel five miles afoot than one astride a treacherous quadruped. Why, it is so long since I indulged in a canter across the country that I would entirely forget the circumstances were it not for the fact that the animal I rode suddenly and obstinately refused to leap over a low fence, which I had approached with a dash, standing in my stirrups ready for the spring, and without the slightest apology sent me over alone. I was considerably confused and confused; but I rallied as soon as possible, fearful that my charger had scampered away, but to my great surprise, and greater disgust, there he stood looking at me as meek and motionless as a marble lamb. After that occurrence I lost all taste for horse exercise. But necessity sometimes obliges us to abandon the strongest prejudices, and in the present instance I was very glad to avail myself of the services of Cavout and his horse, both of Canadian French extraction. There was nothing very winning or alarming in the appearance of the beast; he evidently scorned a superfluity of flesh, and the skin was drawn so tight over his framework of bones and sinews as to show every joint and angle to the greatest perfection. He lacked an eye, and his tail, which was pretty long, was entirely destitute of hair: these imperfections somewhat detracted from his natural beauty, but Cavout said he was sure footed and gentle, and that satisfied me. In his peculiar kind of English he went on to say "Dis a hos same like a man; he no bite, no keek, no ruaway, no notin"; he his old stage hos twaaty year; no dangy wis him. Sometime he make me vex, for he know de post office in all de village, and it is amposible to make him go on, wen he come dere, before two, tree, six minute; except dat, be's all right." And so he was, for he brought me to my destination in good season, slightly damaged, it is true, but being naturally this skinned, that was to be expected.

Seated in a Mexican saddle away up on the camel-shaped back of my veteran steed, with my luggage strapped behind me and my gun swung over my shoulder, I probably bore some distant resemblance to a Bedouin Arab; at least this or some other cause made me wonderfully attractive to the rural hamas productions of the sparsely populated district through which we passed, and as I journeyed along many a dilated juvenile eye followed me with a "last, long, lingering, wondering look." But I was thinking of something else. The twenty years' experience of a stage horse occupied my mind; and I pictured to myself what sights he had seen, and, if endowed with speech, what tales he could tell of the mails' delay, of unfit and unsafe drivers, and of the gross neglect of many village and hamlet Postmasters too ignorant to comprehend, too cowardly to correct, or too lazy to report such abuses of the service to the remedial department. Poor old horse! your lips were sealed, and the offenders are safe; but true to your ancient instinct you did stop at several Post Offices, luckily just as the mail arrived, and, under the influence of my ruling passion, I dismounted, ostensibly to stretch my limbs, but really for the purpose of observing the customs of the country officials. There is but one bag used on this route, I believe; this is opened and the contents overhauled at each office, the local matter picked out, and the balance returned to the bag, which is despatched to the next office to go through the same process. To do this requires but a very little time;

but the prurient curiosity of a good many of these primitive Paul Pry's is so insatiable that every letter and every paper must undergo the strictest scrutiny, hack and front, before it is allowed to slip from their fingers. One old fellow in particular amused me a good deal. His office was in the rear part of a vacant store room, and the little figure struggled to reach it through the front door, so perfectly neutralized that I could get but a dingy view of his mode of operations. Through the broken glass of an unused box I saw him dump the mail stuff on the floor, and then sitting down himself a la Turk, he proceeded leisurely to go through the pile. Not a scrap of anything passed out of his hand until it was thoroughly inspected. He would look at the superscription, holding it close to his eye, then at arms' length, over his spectacles and under his spectacles, varying the position of the letter or paper frequently to get the benefit of the lieble light that pervaded the place. "Every now and then something peculiar would attract his attention; his chin would drop on his breast, his tongue would dart out, and his nostrils would swell and vibrate in the most approved rabbit habit, and his eyebrows, from sympathy, perhaps, stooped and rose and kept step with the nervous nasal dance underneath. All this time the stage was waiting and the passengers grumbling; but the unconcerned driver leaned lazily against a tree outside, and baragned an admiring crowd of about six or seven on the rise, progress and fall of mad dogs. He related some alarming adventures and narrow escapes; and when he told of a rabid animal biting the spokes of one of the wheels of his vehicle—which in a minute shrunk so much that the tire came off—there was not a doubting Thomas among his auditors. Meanwhile the Postmaster was vigorously plying his eyes and fingers, and at last got through, and in a shrill, hissing voice sang out, "Here you are, Raif!" This was the signal for a general "mount and away." But the unlawful and improper detention at the Post Office ensured the failure to connect at the railway station, and the mail, of course, was delayed twenty-four hours. Now this is not the only route where such things occur, and if Postmasters at the various termini would do their duty they would see that mail stage drivers are sober, trustworthy men, and their intermediate official brethren competent, prompt and scrupulously careful in the performance of their duties, according to law and in obedience to instructions, and prevent much dissatisfaction among the public and the consequent unwelcome visits of inquiring attaches of the Inspection Department.

MONSIEUR TONSON.

Communications.

P. O., INDEPENDENCE, N. Y.

Editor U. S. Mail.—In my previous letter I promised you some of my reflections on the second of the two leading causes of Post Office deprivations which presented themselves to my mind. And now that my "model office" is closed for the day; and that the almost incessant tread of big feet and little feet, male left and female feet, shod feet and shoeless feet, is hushed; now that the various tones and modes of inquiry from the short, curt "John Smith?" or the low, sweet-toned "Miss Emeralda Puffenbaiter?" to the "Will you please, sir, be after lookin' if there's ara commands, sir, in the Post Office, from the old country, for Patrick Mulloney, in the care of Barney O'Flanagan, sir; but maybe it's directed to his sister Bridget, in the care of meself, for sure we've haven't had a letter this six months" no longer reach the ear; and now that my pipe of peace with the whole world, including myself, is smoked, I take my pea to redeem my promise.

I alleged two leading causes for Post Office deprivations, viz.: "Frying curiosity and inexcusable want of money." It is my purpose now to speak of the latter. Some may say it is a curious, if not meaningless expression, and may ask "what is an inexcusable want as opposed to an excusable one?" The answer is, any want created by living in a style beyond the limit of one's income is an inexcusable want. A person must dress, but if he dresses better than his salary will allow, he will find in a short time that he will want money; this want will be such as I call inexcusable. So, too, where he indulges in pleasures beyond his means to procure. It seems to me that a person who has thus incurred expenses he cannot meet not only exposes himself to increased temptations, but removes a strong barrier to his yielding to it. Under the most favorable circumstances temptation carries a clerk in a Post Office more strongly than in almost any kind of employment; and hence, he should be careful, by a prudent living within his means, not to increase this temptation. Not being thus prudent, he some day thinks he would like a drive, and accordingly pays a good round sum for a few hours' pleasure; before his next quarters' salary is due he finds an empty pocket hook in his pocket; and how shall he refill it? He knows money is passing through his hands; he does not know whose it is; the person he will injure is a stranger to him; and, above all, he thinks there is but little chance of detection; and so he provides the means for his enjoyment.

Within a few years a class of vampires has sprung up who make use of the Post Office to practice on the credulity, and, indeed, the cupidity, of those living in the country, too far away to inquire into their respectability, or aid in bringing them to justice. In fact, these vampires use the mails alike to reach their victims and to screen themselves from responsibility. I refer to gift jewelry dealers, who

issue certificates, as they call them. I think I can see the grim, sardonic smiles of some of these creatures as they enclose to some green and greedy dupe a half dozen of their certificates. But, as I was saying, I refer to those men who issue certificates, purporting to entitle the holder, on the payment of a few dollars, to a splendid watch, or elegant bracelet, or a magnificent diamond ring. The dupe sends the money, but never receives the watch, or whatever it may be; and for this the Post Office is blamed. It is alleged that either the letter containing the money was taken or else the goods. But even if it does sometimes happen that the money is pilfered in a Post Office, this does not alter the relation between the vampire and his victim; for, had the money been duly received, no watch or jewelry would have been sent. Now, here is the point I wish to make. These men are a species of thief; in a little while the Post Office clerk becomes familiar with their characters; he knows them to be swindlers; he knows that money coming to their hands will not be acknowledged, and if by force of circumstances, it is acknowledged, that the Post Office can apparently be made to screen their villainy by the charge that the goods were sent, and must have been taken by some Post Office clerk; he knows that under any circumstances the sender will lose his money, and hence, having created an inexcusable want of money, and thereby weakened his barrier to temptation, he says to himself, "This money is going to a thief, and I may as well have it as he." There is a speciousness in this argument of which all who handle letters would do well to beware; for, though one may be able to satisfy his conscience with the sophistry that stealing stolen goods from a thief is no crime; yet, so long as the law remains as it now is, no sophistry or argument will make "Stealing valuable letters from the mails" anything but a crime. But here I am spinning out my letter. I will, then, but add—honesty and integrity are the best safeguards for all connected with postal affairs, and these should be their rule of conduct; but let every one who will not make them such ever bear in mind that the very letter he thinks will "put money in his pocket" may be the one to expose him to the "mount and away," and to send him to a prison cell.

Perhaps I ought to apologize to the readers of the Mail for saying so much on this not very agreeable topic. But of course each one will understand that what I have said is intended for general, and not for particular application. Yours truly,
NICOTINE.

Post Office, Chicago, Ill.

The uninitiated in Post Office matters can have but little conception of how necessary it is in large offices that the letter clerk should have the best geographical, as well as phonographical education, in order to forward letters of various kinds to their desired destination; as an instance a letter which came to the Chicago office recently with the following address, written in a plain hand:

Mr. GEORGE T. PUGH,
tuke twine, Perry County,
Elen Wouise.

No one could be at a loss to ascertain for whom the letter was intended, but where to send it was the question. Perry county could very easily be transformed to Perry county, and, having been a constant reader of the Tribune, a little practical use of the advantages of phonography enabled the apt student to determine that "Elen Wouise" might mean "Illinois." "Tuke twine," however, was rather a poser, even for our Chicago boys; but as they never surrender, and to conquer it was necessary to know to what office it should be sent, they combed over the different names in that county, and finding *Loquoin*, once concluded they had fathomed the mysterious direction, and the letter was soon on its way to

GEORGE T. PUGH,
Duquoin,
Perry County,
Illinois.

The Zanesville (Ohio) Courier gives the following account of a discovery made at the Zanesville Post Office:

A BIRD IN A MAIL BAG.—This morning, when Mr. W. Reed, Chief Clerk in the Post Office, emptied the mail bag for this city from Philadelphia, Pa., out flew a small young bird of the sap-sucker species, scarcely old enough to fly. After some little trouble the bird was secured, and on examination it was found that the only damage it had received from its incarceration in the United States mail bag from Philadelphia to this city was a small bruise on one of its wings. It seemed to be a little stupid from its long fast. How it could have escaped death when enclosed among the mail matter with which the bag was filled is marvelous; and how it came in the sack is equally a mystery. Yesterday morning, from a mail bag from the same city, when opened, out jumped a little mouse, healthy and sound, which soon took up quarters in the building, apparently well satisfied with the change. We will soon expect to hear of some of the clerks in the Philadelphia Post Office coming through the same way.

Mr. Reed designs taking the greatest care of his little sap-sucker.

Letter Addresses.

Speed, speed you to Memphis, in old Tennessee, Where there is a friend who is waiting for thee; He is not an old resident, but a new comer, And even subscribers himself DONALD T. PUGH. But maybe 'twere well that the mail men should know I'd have this to reach E. S. BURRELL & Co.: And another, to make this direction complete. Their number is 201 on Main street.

"In the State of Minnesota there is a Town so pretty that they have christened it 'Garden City.' But the name of the county I refer to don't know. Still, in hopes that John Wilson 'twill reach without fail. We will send it about in Uncle Sam's Mail."

"P. M. of Garden Prairie, Illinois. Please hand this to the 'Porter boys,' For sister 'Lib,' who feels so nice Since she has captured Mr. Tice."

Registering Letters.

"It is of the utmost importance that postmasters should exercise the greatest care and diligence in the custody and despatch of registered letters."—Instructions issued by Postmaster General with Act of March 3, 1863.

[We have compiled from the regulations of the Department the following instructions in regard to the registration of letters. They are intended especially for the benefit of postmasters at the smaller offices, and include replies to many questions on this subject, which we are constantly receiving from our subscribers.]

REGISTERED LETTER BLANKS.—All the blanks which are required for use in the registration of letters can be obtained by addressing the Blank Agents of the Department, and the names and addresses will be found in another column.

REGISTRATION FEES.—The registration fee on all registered domestic letters is twenty cents, and the same on letters to Great Britain and Ireland. On those to Canada, or Germany, or any part of the German-Austrian Postal Union, by Bremen or Hamburg line, or by Prussian closed mail, the fee is five cents. The places mentioned above are the only foreign countries to which letters can be sent registered. The full postage on all registered letters, both foreign and domestic, must be prepaid by stamp.—(See last column of fourth page of this paper.)

RECEIVING LETTERS FOR REGISTRATION.—A sheet is furnished by the Blank Agents, on application by postmasters, on the right hand of which is printed the form of "Registered Letter Receipt," in the centre the "Return Registered Letter Receipt," and on the left hand the "Marginal Entry." When a letter is presented for registration, the postmaster should give to the depositor the registered letter receipt, (right hand) first entering therein the registered number of the letter, the date of deposit, the name of his post office, the name and residence of the depositor, and the address of the recipient. In the Return Registered Letter Receipt, (centre) should I entered the same items, and also in the Marginal Entry, (left hand). This letter is to be retained by the postmaster, and he should be careful to see that hereinafter directed. No entry of the sum as to be contained in the letter is required to be made.

PREPARING REGISTERED LETTERS FOR MAILING.—After the above directions have been followed, the postmaster will fill up a "Registered Letter Bill" (which is printed on the back of the ordinary post-office letter headed "Unpaid Letters," which are supplied to all small offices,) entering therein the same items which are entered in the "Return Registered Letter Receipt," but being careful, when intending to forward it through a Distributing Post Office, to insert the name of that office instead of that of the office which the letter is intended finally to reach. (In all cases the name of the office of final destination.) Then he will fill up the "Return Bill" (which must not be confounded with the "Return Receipt" in the same manner; then enclose the letter, the "Registered Letter Bill" and the "Return Receipt" in a sealed envelope, marked "Reg." or "Registered," and addressed to the postmaster of the office to which he intends to forward it.—(N. B. The instruction printed on the back of "Registered Letter Bills," to the effect that postmasters are "not required to put up registered letters in a separate envelope," &c., has been rescinded by the Department, and all registered letters are now required to be so put up.) Then he will enclose it in a wrapper, marked with the name of the same office to which he has addressed the envelope in which he has placed the letter, and also package should then be placed in the mail and sent forward—but should never be placed in a bundle of letters intended for distribution—as a registered letter is always intended to reach the postmaster of the office to which it is sent to, and is, not, strictly speaking, a distribution letter, although it may be sent to a Distributing Office.

MAILING REGISTERED LETTERS.—It is advisable for postmasters, at all small offices, to mail such of their registered letters as are intended for offices outside of their respective States, to the Distributing Post Office on the route over which it is intended the letters shall pass—being careful to address the sealed envelope in which they enclose them, to the postmaster of that office, and marking the name of that office on the wrapper, and being sure that the "Registered Letter Bill" is also filled up with the name of that office. In short, registered letters sent through a Distributing Post Office, should be mailed and filled exactly the same as though they were intended for delivery there. It is only when registered letters are sent direct that the bill should be filled up with the name of the office of final destination.

THE "RETURN BILL."—This should be filled up exactly in the same manner, and bear the same date as the "Registered Letter Bill," but should be enclosed in the next mail which leaves the office after the one in which the letter it refers to was sent. It should be enclosed in an envelope addressed to the postmaster of the same office to which the letter was sent, whether for delivery or for distribution.

ACCOUNTS OF REGISTERED LETTERS "SENT" AND "RECEIVED."—Separate blank sheets for these accounts are furnished by the Department, and may be procured by application to the different Blank Agents. On these are entered the date of receipt (and sending) registered letter bills, the names of the offices to which the bills are sent (and from which they are received), the registered numbers of the letters, the name of the persons to whom they are addressed, and the amounts of the registry fees paid on them. These sheets will be retained by postmasters, copies being forwarded to the Department with the Quarterly Accounts.

DELIVERY OF REGISTERED LETTERS.—On receiving a registered letter for delivery, the postmaster should deliver it only to the person to whom it is addressed, or to some person whom he knows to be authorized to receive it, taking a receipt therefor, and also requiring the person to whom he delivers it to sign the "Return Receipt" which accompanies it. This "Return Receipt" he should then forward by first mail to the postmaster of the office at which the letter was originally mailed. When the "Return Bill" arrives, (which it should be marked "correct," and signed by the postmaster, and then forwarded by first mail to the postmaster of the office at which it is dated,) the letter that he a Distributing Office or the one at which the letter was originally mailed. If, however, a "Return Bill" has not been received, the "Return Bill" must be marked "not received," signed by the postmaster, and returned in the same manner.

FORWARDING REGISTERED LETTERS.—When a registered letter arrives, addressed to a person who has removed, or who for any other cause wishes it forwarded to him at another office, it may be done at his written request. The order to forward should be posted on the account of registered letters received, opposite the name of the person making the request. The letter should be sent forward as a registered letter—in the same manner as if originally mailed as one; but no additional registry fee is to be charged on it. The order to forward must be filed in the office of forwarding, as a voucher for the action had in the case.

UNITED STATES MAIL.



POST OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Established 1860. By J. HOLBROOK. J. OATLER, Editor.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1866

TERMS—One dollar per year, payable in advance.

Subscriptions received at any Post Office in the United States.

Letters containing remittances for subscriptions, or in reference to the business department of this paper, should be addressed to "Postman U. S. Mail" and not to the Editor.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, October 25, 1861.

DEAR SIR—I consider the U. S. Mail and Post Office Assistant a valuable and meritorious publication, essential alike to the Department, to Postmasters throughout the country, and to the public.

The following Official Order has been made by the Postmaster General: Order, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerks of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Washington Oct. 13, 1864. DEAR SIR—I have no hesitation in adding my endorsement to that of my predecessor, Postmaster General Blair, to the usefulness of the "United States Mail and Post Office Assistant," as a medium of communicating correct information to Postmasters and others respecting postal operations, and cheerfully recommend it to the favor and support of Postmasters and other agents of the Department.

Special Notice. By request of numerous subscribers who say, "at all events don't stop the paper," we have during the past year continued to send the Mail to those whose time of subscription had expired, and who have neglected to forward pay for another year in advance.

Change in Foreign Postage. POSTAGE TO PORTUGAL, MADEIRA, AND AZORES ISLANDS, BY THE FRENCH MAIL. We are requested to state that from the first of September 1866, the postage upon letters forwarded from the United States, by the French Mail for Portugal, Madeira, and the Azores Islands, will be 27 cents per single rate of 1 oz. prepayment optional, which postage will cover the full charge to destination.

Newspapers and other printed matter may also be forwarded to Portugal, &c., by the French Mail, on prepayment of the United States postage only, of 2 cents each for newspapers, and 2 cents per four ounces or fraction thereof for pamphlets, magazines, and other printed matter.

Fraudulent Circular. The following circular has been received by a large number of Postmasters. It is of course an impudent attempt to defraud those to whom it was sent, but the scheme is such a clumsy one that it is likely to meet with very limited success.

DEAR SIR: As you are one of the P. M.'s holding your appointment under the present administration, it is taken for granted that you are a good and true Johnson man, and that confidence can be placed in you for the purpose of certifying and attesting all the Johnson men in your district, so that there will be no dissension between the Johnson men and all the conservatives in your section.

1. This circular is to be kept PRIVATE; no person is to have access to it but yourself. 2. If you are true to the party, you will do as above requested. 3. If you are not a Johnson man, you will, in confidence, send this back as all circulars are numbered, with the name of each man attached. 4. If you are true to the administration, you are to be made Deputy of your District. 5. If you keep this circular and intend to do all you can for the party, and become equally prominent and efficient, you will on receipt of this, forward to me by mail \$5, for which I will

send a Charter and Ritual, authorizing you in said charter to act as Deputy in your District. I cannot explain anything further in this circular, as you can see all would be exposed at once. 7. None will know the secret but those who comply with the above and receive the charter. Yours, &c., E. L. WILLIAMS, Sec'y.

Reports of Missing Letters.

Many Postmasters, in reporting to the department or to Special Agents complaints of missing letters, perform that duty in a rather imperfect, not to say careless manner. In fact, they often seem to lose sight altogether of the object of such reports, and to suppose that when they have announced the bare fact that a letter is missing, they have done all that is required of them in the matter. It is not a very long step towards the recovery of a letter which appears to have gone astray, for a Postmaster to tell the Department that "a letter containing money was sent from this office a few weeks ago, addressed to a firm in Chicago, which was said not to have been received," and to wind up with the request, "Please instruct me what to do about it." All reports of missing letters should state every circumstance connected with the case which may be necessary or useful in its investigation.

The following Official Order has been made by the Postmaster General: Order, That the Assistant Postmasters General, and Chief Clerks of this Department, each cause to be furnished from time to time, for publication in the "United States Mail," all such new orders or regulations of the Department touching the business of the several bureaus as may be of general importance or interest, as soon as practicable after the same shall have been promulgated or established.

The Franking Privilege. A provision of the postal laws which occasions much doubt and discussion among Postmasters is the Franking Privilege. We therefore conclude that some explanation of the subject will not be unacceptable to our readers.

The Franking privilege is especially conferred by law. A list of the persons entitled to it may be found in Section 124, of Regulations of 1866, and in Section 65, of the Internal Revenue Law, approved July 13, 1866. By the former it will also be seen that the privilege is divided into two classes, viz.: personal and official, the first of which belongs to the person, and embraces all correspondence of whatever kind, limiting the weight, however, except in the case of the President and Vice President, to four ounces, except petitions to Congress and Congressional or Executive documents, and such publications or books as have or may be published, procured or purchased by order of either House of Congress, or a joint resolution of the two Houses, to which no limit in weight is fixed.

Counterfeiting the frank of a person, or franking for another, is a fineable offence, and Postmasters are required to report these and all other violations of the privilege. It must be understood that the franking privilege includes correspondence to as well as from the person possessing it; and "all communications on official business, of whatever origin, addressed to heads of Executive Departments of Government, or heads of bureaus therein, or to Chief Clerks of Departments, or one authorized by the Postmaster General to frank official matter, shall be received and conveyed by mail, free of postage, without being franked or endorsed "Official Business."

Quarterly Newspaper Postage.—J. M. W., N. Y.—You will find your question answered under the head of "Domestic Postage," in another column. With regard to the franking privilege conferred by Section 65 of the Internal Revenue Law, (approved July 13, 1866, and which went into effect August 1,) it is provided by that Act that all official communications sent

By Assessors to Collectors, " " " Assessors, " " " Assistant Assessors, " " " Collectors to Collectors, " " " Assessors, " " " Deputy Collectors, and By Deputy Collectors to Collectors, may be officially franked by the writers thereof, and shall, when so franked, be transmitted by mail free of postage.

It will be observed that the privilege thus conferred is confined to correspondence between officials on official business. Official or other communications from these officials to private individuals cannot pass free, whether franked by the former or not.

Forwarding Letters Free. We have received quite a number of inquiries relative to the provisions of Section 1, of the Act of June, 1866, relative to the forwarding, free, of letters from one Post Office to another. Peculiar cases have arisen in which Postmasters have been in doubt as to the application of this law, and we have received from the Department several decisions as to its proper construction.

1. The law referred to provides that "prepaid and free letters shall be forwarded, at the request of the party addressed, from one Post Office to another, without additional postage charge." A letter which has been delivered by the Post Office to an authorized person (such as one to whose care it is directed), and by him re-directed to another Post Office, and again deposited in the Post Office from which it was delivered, cannot be forwarded to its new address without the prepayment of domestic rates of postage in stamps, &c., &c.

2. Drop letters which the parties addressed desire to have forwarded to them in the mails to another Post Office can be so forwarded; but they must be charged on their face, and on the post bill, with letter postage—three cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof. 3. The provisions of this act do not apply to any form of mail matter whatever except letters. Neither books, newspapers, pamphlets nor circulars—in short, nothing but letters—are entitled to be forwarded free.

A DISTINCTION WITH A DIFFERENCE.—The New Haven Register says that one afternoon during the recent "heated term," a gentleman on Church street taking compassion on the hard working clerks of the Post Office, suggested to them that a pitcher of lemonade or something of that sort would not be amiss, and like sensible fellows as they are, they cordially assented. Accordingly Austin Alling was commissioned to concoct the beverage and it was done in Kitty's artistic style.

Answers to Correspondents. [Subscribers will greatly oblige us, and often save time and trouble, if they will, before sending us inquiries to be answered in this column, consult the various standing articles in the Mail under the heads of "Miscellaneous Information," "Domestic Postage," &c., &c., for information on the subject in regard to which they are in doubt. We receive a great number of questions, answers to which could readily be found by attending to this request.]

Postage on Dry Goods.—W. M. N.—N. Y.—All kinds of dry goods, whether in closed packages or in those with open ends, are subject to letter postages, except clothing to soldiers, for which see Section 223, postal laws of 1866.

Franking Privilege, Section 265 of Laws.—P. S. S.—N. Y.—Our reply applied to the character of mail matter that could be sent free to a member of Congress, and not to the weight. The weight is limited to four ounces except in the cases mentioned in Section 265.

Stamps Cut from Stamped Envelopes.—J. K. B., M.—Iowa.—Stamps cut from stamped envelopes cannot be used to prepay postage under any circumstances whatever, while the use of such stamps is punishable by a fine of fifty dollars; and Section 174, of Regulations of 1866, provides that they "lose their legal value." Section 189 provides that "the postage on stamped envelopes spoiled in directing may be refunded in stamps by a Postmaster, if satisfied they have never been sent by mail, and that the misdirection actually occurred at the place where the redemption is claimed. In no case is an envelope to be redeemed at the Post Office to which it is directed. See the Section for further information.

Carrier Refusing to take all the Mail for his Route.—S. S. T., P.—Cal.—Mail carriers are required to take all the mails for their respective routes; you should, therefore, be careful to have all your mails ready at the proper time; if the carrier then refuses to take all, let him take such part as he chooses, and do you report the facts of the refusal immediately to the Contract Office.

Postage on Drop Letters where there is not a Free Delivery.—T. B., P.—Fla.—The law reducing the postage on drop letters to one cent, where there is not a free delivery, was passed May 1, 1865. See Section 261, Laws of 1866.

Quarterly Newspaper Postage.—J. M. W., N. Y.—You will find your question answered under the head of "Domestic Postage," in another column. With regard to the franking privilege conferred by Section 65 of the Internal Revenue Law, (approved July 13, 1866, and which went into effect August 1,) it is provided by that Act that all official communications sent

Sending Printed Circulars in County Papers.—E. L. S., S.—Mich.—It is clearly illegal to send circulars in newspapers whether in or out of the county, and it subjects the papers to letter postage.

Postage on Foreign Papers sent by News Agents to Regular Subscribers, &c.—H. W., F.—Ind.—1. The postage on such papers is chargeable at the regular quarterly rates, and can be paid at the office of delivery. 2. The postage on papers to Germany is six cents each; they must be put up singly, in narrow bands, open at the sides and ends, otherwise they are chargeable with letter postage.

Time of Closing Mails.—S. R., F.—Ill.—Section 76, of Regulations of 1866, provides that all mails at all offices other than distributing offices, are to be closed at not more than half an hour before the time fixed for their departure, unless the departure is between 9 o'clock P. M. and 5 A. M., in which case the mail is to be closed at 9 P. M.

Postal Route Maps, &c.—D. C. M., P.—Utah.—1. We can give you very little information respecting the Postal Route Maps, except that they are in preparation; but when they will be completed, or whether they will be furnished to Postmasters, either free or at a charge, we cannot say. 2. It is the purpose of our paper to instruct on the postal laws as they are rather than discuss what they should be. The people of the section between Kansas and California should endeavor to procure a change through their members of Congress or Delegates.

Unlawful Carrying of Mail Matter.—D. F., P.—N. Y.—Section 198, of Laws of 1865, after naming certain parties who shall be subject to fines and penalties for carrying mail matter, concludes as follows, viz.: "But nothing in this act contained shall be construed to prohibit the conveyance or transmission of letters, packets or packages, or other matter, by any part of the United States by private hands, on compensation being tendered or received therefor in any way, or by a peacemessenger employed only for the single particular occasion."

Postage on Manuscript Music. J. G. P., Mass.—Manuscript music should be charged with letter postage.

Regulating the Salaries of Clerks, &c.—T. U. S. and C. A. M., N. Y.—1. The Postmaster General makes the allowance for salary of clerks upon a statement by the Postmaster of the amount required. 2. Newspapers published in Canada and sent to regular subscribers in the United States are chargeable with the regular quarterly postage, to be collected at the office of delivery; transient papers are chargeable with the transient postage, viz.: two cents for four ounces. 3. Papers from Germany neither stamps, nor postage, are chargeable with additional postage.

Distance between Post Offices.—M. H., P.—P.—F.—Tenn.—There is no law regulating the distances between Post Offices. The Postmaster General is authorized to establish, on post roads, Post Offices at all such places as may appear to him expedient.

Postmasters Reading Valuable Dead Letters.—G. W. S., N. Y.—N. Y.—Valuable dead letters are returned, under the care of the Postmaster, and accompanied by instructions to him to read them carefully to discover the writer, but to preserve a profound secrecy respecting their contents. It follows, then, that the Postmaster did not go beyond his duty in reading the letter in question.

Postage on Drop Letters.—J. R. W., E.—Wis.—The postage on drop letters where there is a free delivery by carriers is two cents, at other places one cent.

Return Registered Letter Bill endorsed "Not Received."—H. T. K., N.—Minn.—Send a memorandum of the facts in the case to the Contract Office, Inspection Division.

Disposition of Letters not Prepaid.—J. P. O., A.—Ky.—Letters deposited in a Post Office and not prepaid, one rate, must be marked "held for postage," and sent to the Dead Letter office immediately, accompanied with a list of the names they bear; a copy of this list must also be retained by the Postmaster.

Postage on Books to Canada.—S. H. B., W.—F.—R. I.—Postage on books and other printed matter can only be paid to the Canada line; this must be paid at the mailing office, in addition to which postage is collected at the office of delivery.

Letters not Postmarked, &c.—T. S. H.—H.—Texas.—1. If a Postmaster makes a regular practice of mailing letters without a postmark he should be reported to the Appointment Office for delinquency. 2. We do not know that there is any objection to a contractor, or by regular driver, carrying the mail more frequently than is required by the contract; but it cannot be done by any one else. In your case you had better address the Contract Office, and the matter will doubtless be arranged satisfactorily according to your proposition. 3. Offices, the gross receipts of which are \$100 a year, will be furnished with marking stamps, and 10 over \$75 a year with rating stamps.

Forwarding Drop Letters.—H. A. O.—Neb.—Drop letters bearing a one or two cent stamp, when forwarded in the mails at the request of the party addressed, should be charged with letter postage, to be collected on delivery.

Forwarding Letters on which Postage is Due.—U. L., S.—Cal.—Such letters can be forwarded without additional charge, but the amount already charged must be collected at the office of delivery. For reply to your first question see preceding answer.

Account of Transient Newspaper Postage, &c.—P. H., Mich.—1. This account can be kept in a book, and at the end of the quarter the amount added to the amount collected for regular newspapers. 2. The gross receipts of an office include all the money received on account of the Department, whether from postage, box rents, waste paper, &c. 3. For information respecting bills with your printed signature write to the Blank Agent who supplies you with blanks; and for answer to your question on forwarding mail matter see our article in another column. 4. The act of 1854 will be found in the Laws and Regulations of 1859; only such laws as are now in force are included in the edition of 1866.

Postage on Printed Matter Collected for a Year.—A. B. T., W.—Pa.—See preceding answer.

Franking Privilege.—Several correspondents who have addressed us on this subject are referred to our article to be found elsewhere.

Forwarding Letters addressed to the care of another, &c.—L. H. O.—Ill.—See article in another column. 2. No regard need be paid to return requests on circulars and transient newspapers. 3. A retiring Postmaster should pay over to the incoming Postmaster all money collected on account of the Department since the beginning of the quarter, and not accounted for to the Department.

New Post Offices, and Changes.

The Postmaster General has established, discontinued, and changed the names of the following offices, during the month of August, 1866:

Table with columns: County, State, Name of Office. Lists changes for Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Arizona.

[In the annexed List will be found added the names of the nearest offices to which matter for those having been discontinued should be sent.]

DISCONTINUED.

Table with columns: Name, County and State, Nearest Office. Lists discontinued offices and their replacements.

NAMES CHANGED.

Table with columns: Name, County and State, Changed to. Lists name changes for various offices.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.

Table with columns: Name, County and State, Postmaster. Lists new appointments for various offices.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

Table listing various locations and their corresponding post offices, including Montreal, Quebec, and other international destinations.

Table listing various locations and their corresponding post offices, including Albany, New York, and other domestic destinations.

ments are not recognized. Prepayment must be made by United States postage stamps...

American Provinces except Newfoundland, to which postage is compulsory... Domestic Postages.

books stitched or bound, pamphlets, catalogues, prospectuses, advertisements, notices of various kinds...



